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Kuwait in no hurry to restore Parliament, says Sheikh Saad

KUWAIT, April 10. (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said the government was in no hurry to restore Parliament dissolved by HH the Amir during the Iran-Iraq war on the grounds of a foreign conspiracy was out to destroy the oil-rich state.

Sheikh Saad was quoted by a Kuwaiti daily today as saying talks with pro-democracy activists could take up to two years.

"We are in no hurry to reach the required con-

cept," Sheikh Saad said. "The dialogue could continue for a month or two and might take one or two years."

"But it should produce a result agreed by all to safeguard (Kuwait's) unity," he said after meeting political, economic and sports representatives yesterday.

Sheikh Saad, the main government representative at the talks, said Parliament would be restored according to new laws and regulations "free from previous faulty practices."

HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, offered the pro-democracy activists negotiations in January in exchange for their agreement to end protest rallies.

Sheikh Saad praised the spirit of fraternity, positiveness and frankness which featured all meetings and lauded the valuable ideas, remarks and proposals tabled by citizens within framework of

the Amir's call that came in his fatherly speech last January opening dialogue on that vital and important issue.

Such opinions and proposals had reflected the Kuwaitis' belief in and keenness on the spirit of the one family and the fathers and forefathers' method of responsible dialogue as means to solve problems and to consult with amity and good will over all that concerns the nation in a bid to serve their country and consolidate its security and stability, the Crown Prince underlined.

He expressed appreciation of all constructive ideas that have emerged during his meetings, affirming that when they are presented to the Amir they will be met with utmost concern.

The Crown Prince pointed out that those proposals and ideas will pose as the basis for the next stage of the dialogue which will tackle determining appropriate mechanism for that dialogue on details of regulations and basis for the return of parliamentary life on solid basis ensuring its continuation.

Such solid basis should also ensure avoiding reasons that led to hurdling the parliamentary life through a comprehensive and objective evaluation of that experiment to realize the state and the citizens interests under leadership of the Amir, Sheikh Saad concluded.

Step to boost economy

CB chief for privatisation

KUWAIT, April 10. (Kuna): Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah has commended the privatisation of state-run bodies, affirming that such a process will positively boost the domestic economy and the activities of institutions up for sale.

Speaking to a local daily, in an exclusive interview published today, Sheikh Salem said that the government can transfer any of its agencies to the private sector by putting any of them for sale directly on the market or through a public auction.

He noted that both the potentials of the public and private sectors were greatly affected by many regional, international and national events in the 1980s such as the Iraq-Iran war, the slumping oil prices and the Manakh crisis.

The governor said that the end of the Gulf war, stabilisation of oil prices and the near settlement of many Manakh-caused debts, the private sector is just beginning to stand on its own feet, but is not ready yet for long-term planning.

Thus, the private sector cannot purchase all state-owned agencies up for sale at the present, Sheikh Salem underlined.

He proposed that the private sector purchases small government stocks between 5 and 10 per cent at any company or anything between KD1 million and KD1.5 million.

Act against states aiding drug traffickers

Contain the menace: Sheikh Salem

LONDON, April 10. (Kuna): Kuwait Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah today affirmed that the production of drugs and its impact on today's society has become a cause of "serious concern" to the world and urged for international co-operation to oversee a solution to the problem.

Addressing the world ministerial drug summit, which opened here yesterday, Sheikh Salem said that the Kuwaiti government has taken certain measures in this respect, mainly based on Islamic teachings.

Sheikh Salem urged all countries to ratify the Vienna convention, and for drug-producing countries to cease their production of these dangerous substances.

He also called for the establishment of more drug rehabilitation facilities with the help of the UN specialised agencies and countries with experience in this field. Certain proceedings should be taken against countries which supply arms to drug traffickers.

Internationally, Sheikh Salem went on, Kuwait is totally behind efforts to combat this problem, and we are applying, wherever possible, the rules of the United Nations convention against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted in Vienna in 1988.

Hoping that the London gathering would emerge with an international strategy to contain the drug problem, he proposed that certain matters will be included in the final declaration.

He noted that drugs did not become a menace in Kuwait until five years ago, when the number of drug offenders started to rise.

(See Page 4)



Sheikh Salem Al Sabah heads the Kuwaiti delegation at the International Drug Summit in London. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWSWATCH

Kuwait to invest in Hungary: Kuwait has initially agreed to invest \$100 million in productive projects in Hungary, Hungarian Economic sources disclosed in Budapest Tuesday.

The sources, quoted by the Hungarian news agency, said that Kuwaiti oil companies are planning to purchase a stake in the union of Hungarian oil and gas companies.

The sources further said that the two sides in a joint venture also intend to build gas stations. (Kuna)

Gorbachev may use new power: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said on Tuesday he might impose his new power of direct presidential rule on rebel Lithuania if civilian conflict broke out.

The president was responding to questions during a congress of the Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organisation, the official news agency Tass said. (Reuters)

Mahdi's son among detainees: Sudan's military government has detained 35 people, including the son of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al-Mahdi, in connection with a coup plot it uncovered last month, a London-based Arabic newspaper said on Tuesday.

Ashraf Al-Awsat, reporting from Khartoum, quoted an official source as saying those detained and being questioned about the plot included retired Lieutenant Abdul-Rahman Al-Mahdi, former aide to the ousted prime minister and businessman. (Reuters)

63 Filipino rebels killed: The military said Tuesday that 63 communist guerrillas had been killed in fighting on the central island of the rebel New People's Army.

Elsewhere, NPA guerrillas in a province southeast of Manila announced they would release a military officer held captive since late February after he was found innocent of charges of "grave crimes" against the rebel movement. (AP)

Israel closer to Arrow test: Israel is very close to the first flight test of an experimental interceptor that could strike down incoming tactical ballistic missiles. It was disclosed in Washington Monday.

But according to a report in the Washington Times newspaper, Israel will not be in a position to deploy batteries of Arrow interceptors for at least five years and not possibly not until the year 2000. (Kuna)

"I'm not gay," Prince Edward: Britain's Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, has angrily denied he is homosexual.

"I'm not gay," the 26-year-old prince, who dropped out of a tough marine commando training course two years ago, told the mass-circulation Daily Mirror.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the report. (Reuters)

Commune with nature — by phone: Caught between a workaholic boss and an internal rush-hour trip home, the married Japanese salaryman can now commune with nature — by telephone.

Telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) now brings callers the sound of birds and insects down its phone lines.

NTT and the environment agency say they hope to bring the Japanese closer to nature through the new service, dubbed "Naku-Naku 7979." Naku-Naku means, roughly, "cheep-cheep." (Reuters)

Smugglers kill 4 Indian cops: Sandalwood smugglers in southern India shot and killed four policemen and wounded five others who were investigating reports that a gang was pilfering the fragrant trees, United News of India reported Tuesday.

The victims were members of an eight-man police party investigating reports of smugglers in the Hogenakkal Forest on the border of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka states about 300 kilometres (18 miles) west of Madras, the news agency said. (AP)

Burmese army truck plunges, 32 killed: A Burmese army truck plunged down a ravine during a storm, killing 32 people, including nine civilians, a Burmese official said Monday.

The truck crashed down a steep ravine along a road leading to Myawadi late Friday, said the official, who requested anonymity.

The accident was caused by the same storm Friday that also sank a passenger ferry carrying 241 people, the official said. He was interviewed in the Burmese town of Myawadi, which is opposite Mae Sot in northeastern Thailand. (AP)

Tanzania floods kill 52: The worst floods in nearly 50 years have killed 52 people and swept away 4,000 homes in southern Tanzania, police said on Tuesday.

Police said the death toll could rise as rescue work went ahead in the flooded areas around the coastal towns of Lindi and Mtwara. (Reuters)

Dole due

Iraq boots envoy

BAGHDAD, April 10. (AP): A US diplomat expelled by Iraq left Baghdad last night, hours after the Foreign Ministry ordered him out of the country, diplomats said today.

They identified the diplomat as Zachary White, a second secretary at the US mission in Baghdad.

The US embassy refused to comment on his departure, the latest in a series of incidents bruising relations between Washington and Baghdad.

Iraq yesterday said it was expelling the diplomat in retaliation for the State Department kicking out an Iraqi diplomat working at its mission to the United Nations.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Iraq's decision to expel the US diplomat was "totally inappropriate."

The Iraqi, Hamid Al Amery, who left the United States Thursday, was allegedly involved in an assassination plot against two opponents of the Iraqi government living in California.

Iraq said Al Amery's expulsion was unjustified and accused the United States of launching a smear campaign against Iraq and paving the way for Iraq to attack.

In related developments, US Senate minority leader Robert Dole of Kansas said that he and five other mostly Republican senators had added Baghdad to their itinerary and would visit Thursday. The senators, in Cairo today after visiting Syria, are also scheduled to visit Jordan and Israel.

Meanwhile in an effort to ease strains in US-Iraqi relations, President Husein Mubarak arranged for American senators touring the Middle East to meet with Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein.

Dole, the delegation's leader, told reporters after talking with Mubarak that the Egyptian leader set up the meeting with Iraq's president for Thursday in Baghdad.

He also said Mubarak promised early contact with Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's Labour Party, if Peres is confirmed as prime minister in a parliamentary vote scheduled for tomorrow. Dole did not say whether the contact would be a face-to-face meeting.

In Washington, the Commerce Department said it has cancelled an Aerospace trade mission to Iraq as US lawmakers prepare to pass legislation against the Baghdad government.

Elizabeth Dugan, a Commerce Department spokeswoman, said the Iraqi leg of the Aerospace trade mission was called off "in light of the events of the last couple of weeks."

Meanwhile, the Iraqi media continued its criticism of the US administration over the controversy surrounding alleged attempt by Iraq to smuggle nuclear triggering devices from the United States.

Nidal releases three



Valente (right) shown with her Belgian friend Houtekins (left). (Reuters file photo)

Lovers and baby freed

Two and a half-year drama ends

BEIRUT, April 10. (Agencies): A French woman, her Belgian boyfriend and their infant daughter were released today by the Palestinian group that held them hostage for almost two-and-a-half years, police said.

Police said the three released by Abu Nidal's group — Fatah-Revolutionary Council were French woman Jacqueline Valente, 32, her Belgian boyfriend Fernand Houtekins, 43, and their two-year-old daughter Sophie-Liberte, born in captivity.

Palestinian sources in the port of Sidon said the three arrived secretly from Libya by boat over the weekend. They were kept at an Abu Nidal base east of Sidon, 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of Beirut, until their release, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

French embassy spokesman Francois Abi Saab said only two news organisations financed by the French government, Agence-France Presse news agency and the Antenne-2 television station, would have access to the hostages.

A special plane was dispatched from Paris today to collect the freed hostages.

"Kisses to all my friends. I am fine and so is the child," Valente told the French reporters given exclusive access to the couple. "We feel a little tired from travelling."

Houtekins said his four in-laws still held were "in very good condition. Their morale is high and they are taking it to their stride. Don't worry."

He added, "We were waiting the day of our release and it has finally come. We hope the others left behind will be free soon."

The couple would not comment on their second child born in captivity during their 20-minute talk with reporters.

But French Ambassador Rene Ala said Valente told him that the boy born in March 1989 had died from problems in his digestive system.

Abi Saab, reached by telephone, said the three were in good health.

Four Belgians of the original group of eight people kidnapped in November 1987 remain in the hands of the Fatah-RC.

The group has said their release was contingent on freedom for a Palestinian jailed in Belgium for a decade after a bombing attack on Jewish youths.

Hours after the release, Fatah-RC spokesman Walid Khalid drove into the French embassy offices and told reporters he will release a statement "after my talks with French diplomats." He would not elaborate.

Guns from Fatah-RC brought the three to the embassy at 8:15 am (06:15 GMT), the police spokesman said.

Masked gunmen in a convoy of three cars, curtains, drawn, sped up to embassy on Rue Clemenceau in West Beirut, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Ala and the French diplomats apparently had advance notice of the release. Ala was waiting at a cement output manned by French marine guards near the main gate," the spokesman said.

The gunmen did not disembark. The doors were opened and Ferdinand and Houtekins emerged first, wearing a grey suit and carrying the baby daughter, the spokesman said.

Valente was next. They walked into the embassy hand-in-hand as about 10 embassy guards, armed with automatic rifles, watched," he added.

Kashmir rebels execute hostage

Troops conduct search

SRINAGAR, India, April 10. (AP): Muslim secessionist militants shot and killed one of three hostages they have been holding for the past four days and dumped his body outside the city's main fire station, police said.

The body of L.M. Khara, an industrialist, was found with five bullet wounds, said Tatraji Ganju, a police superintendent.

Khara is the first civilian killed by the militants who has not been accused of being a police informer. His death raised to 256 the number of people killed in the Kashmir valley since Jan 20 when the government cracked down on a Muslim movement for secession from Hindu-majority India.

The body was found about one and one-half hours before the kidnappers' 3 pm (0930 GMT) deadline. They had threatened to kill all three hostages if three jailed militants were not freed.

Ganju said he did not know why Khara, a Hindu and general manager of the Hindustan Machine Tools Co., was killed before the deadline. "There were no bloodstains at the spot where his body was found, so we assume he was killed somewhere else," the police officer said.

Government troops threw a cordon around the narrow alleys surrounding the fire station and were conducting house-to-house searches for the abductors, Ganju said.

He said nothing was known about the fate of two other hostages, the vice-chancellor of Kashmir University and his personal secretary, both of whom are Muslims.

All three were kidnapped Friday and threatened with execution if three top militants were not released.

The government responded with an around-the-clock curfew, imposed Friday afternoon, and arrested between 300 to 400 people in an effort to free the hostages, official sources said.

Seven people were wounded by soldiers and paramilitary troops yesterday when the militants' supporters defied curfew in two places in Srinagar, witnesses said.

At the United Nations, the head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front yesterday said that violent struggle will continue and said hostage-taking and execution were justified for the cause of independence.

"Whatever helps us gain our objective we will do," Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Front, told a news conference in the UN Correspondents Association Club.

"If we kill one vice-chancellor," he said, "it is only one in comparison to the many, the scores killed by Indian authorities." In one day, he claimed, as many as 120 people were killed by Indian soldiers or police trying to contain the secessionists' movement in India's northernmost and most strategic state.



Gun-wielding Indian securitymen guard a street in curfew-bound Srinagar on April 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Imelda wept for 'pamana'

Satchel man testifies

NEW YORK, April 10. (Reuters): Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos bought his wife, Imelda, an office building on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue after, she tearfully begged him for an "inheritance" — a "pamana" — a former bank executive testified yesterday.

Oscar Carino, the former manager of the New York office of the Philippine National Bank, said Imelda took so much money from the branch that it was almost shut by New York state regulators for having insufficient funds.

Carino testified yesterday that he was called "the satchel man" for Imelda because he carried a bag containing \$100,000 in cash for her expenses during the funeral of South Korean President Park Chung-hee in 1979.

Prosecutors allege that the Marcoses transferred stolen money to the New York branch of the Philippine National Bank and that Imelda used the branch as her "personal piggy bank."

Carino testified that Mrs. Marcos wanted to buy the crown building on Fifth Avenue but her husband was unsure.

Carino said he received four calls from Marcos. In the third, Marcos said the purchase was off, but in the fourth he changed his mind.

During yesterday's testimony, Carino said he questioned Gloria Tanco, Mrs. Marcos' close friend, as to why Marcos had changed his mind. Carino said he asked Tanco whether Mrs. Marcos had been "extra nice" to her husband.

He said Tanco said, "she cried to him and told the president to give the building to her as an inheritance or a gift."

Carino said Mrs. Marcos used the word "pamana," which he translated to mean inheritance.

The family of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has asked Switzerland's highest court to block Zurich authorities from returning to the Philippines millions of dollars seized from Marcos accounts.

The prosecutor's office in the Canton of Zurich said on yesterday that the president's widow Imelda, his heirs and Liechtenstein-based trusts that administered the funds were contesting its decision to hand over more than \$240 million.

Imbak	3.55
litak	6.13

Chinese troops sent to three border cities to quell Muslim riots

BEIJING, April 10. (AP): Chinese troops have been sent to three cities near the nation's far west borders with the Soviet Union and Pakistan to quell Muslim riots, a source said today.

The disturbances took place in Kashgar, Hotan and one other city in the remote southwest section of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, said the source, a Western traveller who was in the Xinjiang provincial capital of Urumqi over the weekend.

A Western diplomat who met a Xinjiang official yesterday also confirmed that the rioting had taken place, but Chinese officials have refused to confirm or deny the reports.

An official of the state minorities commission in Beijing today would say only that he had heard no reports of trouble. The Foreign Affairs Office in Urumqi refused to answer questions. Efforts to reach Kashgar by phone were not successful.

The traveller said he was told by people in Urumqi that the rioting near Kashgar, an ancient bazaar and silk road oasis west of the Taklimakan desert, apparently was sparked by a controversy over the building of a mosque.

Chinese authorities have recently ordered a clampdown on religious functions in Xinjiang, claiming that people are using religion for separatist, anti-government activities.

There were no details on how many took part in the reported disturbances, whether the troops, sent on Friday, were soldiers or the paramilitary people's armed police, or whether there were any deaths or injuries.

The traveller said he and others who were not allowed to board a plane Saturday for the 1,100-kilometre (700-mile) trip from Urumqi to Kashgar.

The government of Pakistan was notified yesterday that the 4,000-metre (13,120-foot) Karakoram Pass through the Karakoram Mountains south of Kashgar had been closed due to a landslide. The pass, the main route between Xinjiang and Pakistan, was to have opened for the season later this month.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

INTERNATIONAL

5 killed in Indian ethnic clashes

NEW DELHI, April 10, (AP): Hindus and Muslims clashed in the western state of Gujarat yesterday and police and news reports said at least five people died.

United News of India news agency reported four people killed in Ahmedabad, but

police said only two people were killed two others injured.

UNI also said that three people were killed in Baroda.

Neither the police officer nor UNI identified the victims by religion in keeping with

the policy of not publicising religious differences.

The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said at least 1,000 people have been arrested since sectarian violence flared up in the state in the first week of March.

Troops patrol Karachi hospital

KARACHI, April 10, (AP): Thousands of soldiers blocked roads and swarmed through a city hospital earlier today, apparently fearing that a student leader critically wounded over the weekend would die, setting off a new round of violence.

Hospital sources said Najeeb Ahmad, 27, who was wounded during a shooting spree that left 17 people dead and 55 others injured, remained in a coma.

However, his chances of surviving were considered low, said attending physicians who refused to be identified.

Ahmad belongs to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Thousands of his supporters, who have been keeping a 24-hour vigil outside the hospital, blame Ahmad's injuries on a rival political party, whose militant leader started a hunger strike almost 48 hours earlier.

The leader, Altaf Hussain, has vowed to starve himself to death unless police release 21 of his supporters arrested in connection with the weekend shooting spree.

About 5,000 soldiers have been patrolling Hussain's neighbourhood in Karachi's congested central district since he began his hunger strike.

Thousands of emotional supporters have camped out in front of his home, many of them waving and chanting anti-people's Party slogans.

Karachi has lately become a political and ethnic battlefield. In the past several years about 1,000 people have been killed in ethnic-related violence.

The major opponents are Sindh nationalists, who want greater autonomy for their southern province, and Hussain's MQM, who want to be recognised as a fifth nationality.

Abu Hassan to visit India

KUALA LUMPUR, April 10, (Kuna): Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan said yesterday he will take up the issue of the recent Indian government ruling reducing the number of foreign medical students in Indian universities when he visits India tomorrow.

He is leaving for India as a special envoy of Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad to invite Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh to attend the Group of 15 (G-15) summit meeting here this June.

Abu Hassan told a news conference here that he would take the opportunity to also hold talks with his Indian counterpart on the medical students issue.



Jubilant residents of Kathmandu march through the capital on Monday after King Birendra agreed to lift a ban on political parties. (Reuters wirephoto)

Opposition jubilant

Birendra invites talks

KATHMANDU, April 10, (Agencies): Nepal's opposition, jubilant after winning the first stage of the battle for open politics, said today they would press on in pursuit of parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy.

"We have crossed the biggest hurdle," said Nepali Congress Party General Secretary Ganga Prasad Koirala after absolute monarch King Birendra lifted a 30-year ban on political parties in the face of massive demonstrations.

"But there are other hurdles to overcome," Koirala told Reuters as the parties, which opened clandestinely, work out how to proceed.

He said Congress and seven communist factions, allied in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) that led to pro-democracy protests in which at least 50 people were killed, separately today and were to meet together tomorrow.

Hospital sources said they had seen at least 50 bodies on Friday after police opened fire on thousands of people marching to the royal palace in the bloodiest day in modern Nepalese history. The government put the death toll at six.

Koirala, who put the toll at between 150 and 200, said the opposition would not back down on its demands.

He said all opposition groups agreed the government should be dismissed immediately and replaced by an all-party interim administration that would organise elections and draw up a new constitution.

There was no immediate sign of whether King Birendra, 44, who withdrew the ban on political parties on Sunday, would meet the demands.

Koirala said there would be more violence if the opposition demands were not met soon. "The people have run out of patience," he said, adding that the MRD had only suspended its campaign of demonstrations, not ended it.

Koirala said the Congress would not abolish the monarchy. "That is not negotiable," he said.

The Congress Party's acting president said King Birendra has invited his party to participate in a proposed interim government following the establishment of multiparty democracy.

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, said the party has also been invited to take part in a constitution reforms commission and an inquiry into last week's government crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, the bloodiest clash this century in Nepal.

"Today I talked to a minister about the king's proposals, but I told him we need time before making a decision. After all, we have been out of politics for three decades and need time to reorganize ourselves," Bhattarai said.

Meanwhile, life returned to normal in Kathmandu and its two suburbs of Patan and Bhaktapur after day-long celebrations yesterday over the opposition victory.

Extension of rule approved

NEW DELHI, April 10, (AP): The Upper House of Parliament today approved an extension of federal rule in the strife-torn state of Punjab, passing a proposal to amend the constitution which had failed last month.

United News of India said the bill to extend federal rule in Punjab until Nov 10, was approved by a vote of 208 to 1 in the 245-member house. The Lower House approved the bill last week.

To become law, the bill has now to be signed by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, but he has no power to refuse assent.

'I'm free': Bibi

Rebel pilot recaptured



Seradon is presented to the media.

NPA to release Capt Reyes

MANILA, April 10, (AP): Communist guerrillas have decided to free a military officer after he was found innocent of "grave crimes" against the rebel movement, and called for a 48-hour ceasefire to negotiate his release.

In documents received yesterday, the Apolinario Mendoza command of the New People's Army, based in Quezon province, 160 kms (100 miles) southeast of Manila, said Capt. Alberto Reyes had pleaded guilty to minor charges of extortion.

Reyes, deputy chief of the constabulary highway patrol group for the northeastern Luzon region, was captured Feb 25 and had been held by the rebels pending investigation of charges that he committed "grave crimes."

MANILA, April 10, (AP): A rebel ex-lieutenant colonel found in a jailbreak said today he is joining his comrades in their fight against President Corason Aquino.

Meanwhile, the military said it had recaptured a rebel pilot today after the armed forces announced he had escaped during a furor.

"Today, I'm free again to continue our struggle for the cause of good government," said Bibi Bibi, an intelligence officer at the Bureau of Customs, who was charged in the Dec 1-5 coup attempt against Aquino.

His statement was sent to news organisations two days after members of the rebel young officer's union staged a rescue. Bibi, a key coup leader who allegedly raided the customs armoury and food stocks last December.

Bibi said his escape was made "with the aid of some inmates and a little assistance from reform-minded police personnel."

Police investigators said about 15 rescuers raided the jail during a drinking session by guards to celebrate the birthday of Deputy Warden Maj. Manuel Roxas.

The breakout was followed by a military announcement that Airforce Capt. Rogelio Seradon, a rebel pilot involved in the Feb coup attempt against the government, had escaped for the second time. But he was recaptured today in northern Pangasinan province.

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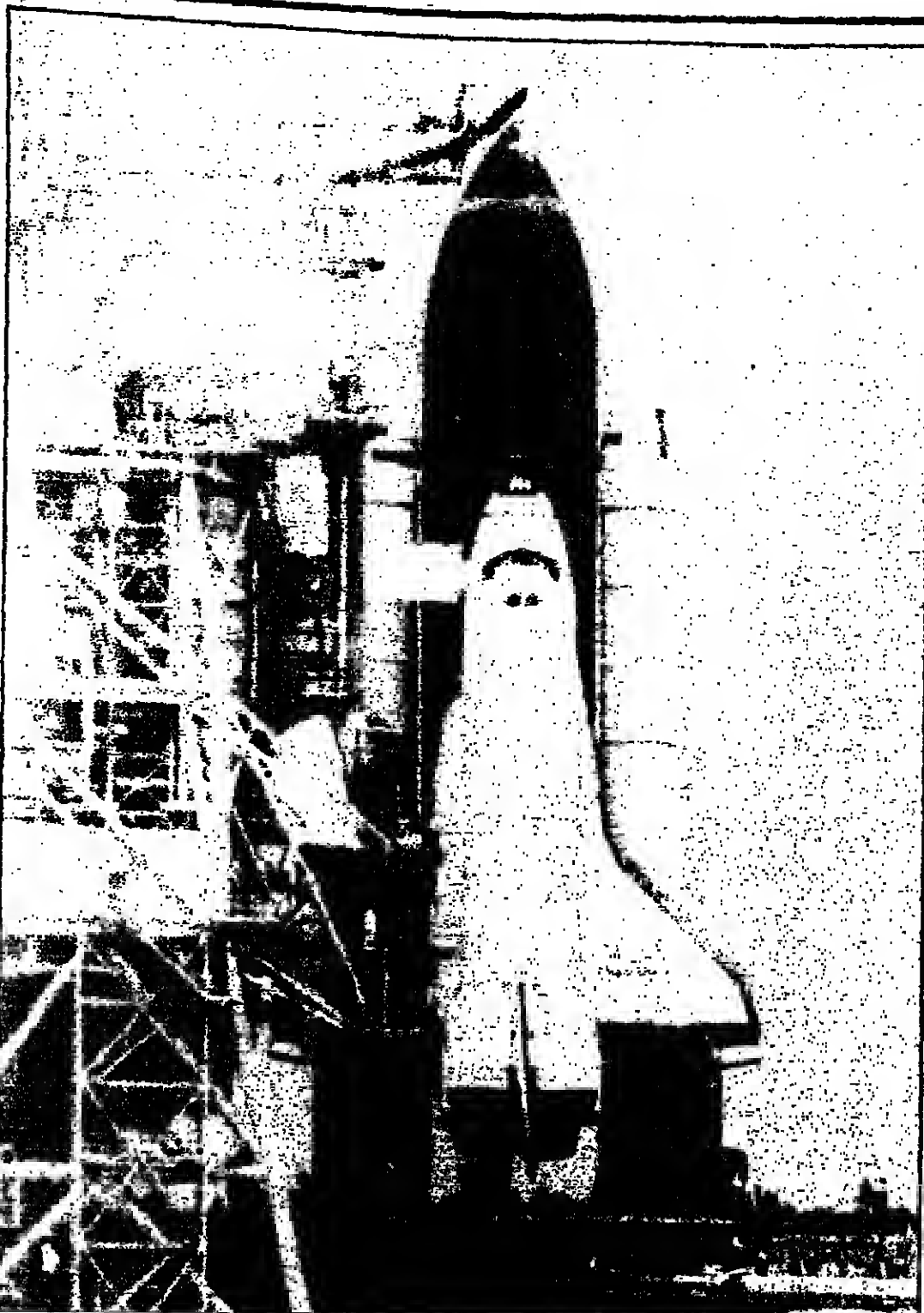
A Traffic Issue

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The space shuttle Discovery peeks around into view on Monday as the protective service structure, left, totals out of the way in preparation for launch. The Discovery contains the Hubble telescope in its cargo bay, and will deploy the \$1.5 billion instrument, (Reuters wirephoto)

In search of cosmic answers

Space telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, April 10, (UPI) — NASA's \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope is expected to answer fundamental questions about the universe during its 15-year lifetime.

Here are some of the topics the telescope will study during its mission:

The age of the universe: The universe is believed to have flashed into existence in a "big bang" explosion that created space, time and energy. Current estimates of the age of the universe are uncertain by a factor of two, placing the big bang event between 10 billion and 20 billion years ago. Astronomers typically split the difference and say the cosmos is roughly 15 billion years old. Data from the space telescope should reduce the uncertainty to just 10 per cent or so.

The distance scale of the universe: The space telescope's instruments will allow astronomers to refine the distance scale of the universe, which in turn will refine knowledge about its expansion and ultimate fate. Astronomical distances beyond about 300 light years are uncertain to a large degree and data from the space telescope should help astronomers more precisely determine how far distant galaxies are from Earth.

The fate of the universe: The universe has been expanding since the big bang, but the rate of that expansion is not precisely known. By determining how fast galaxies are moving away from each other, and thus how the expansion rate may be slowing down, astronomers may be able to determine if the universe will continue to enlarge forever or whether the galaxies eventually will stop their rush into space and collapse back upon each other in a "big crunch" prior to another big bang.

Galactic evolution: With 10 times the clarity of ground-based instruments, the space telescope will be able to study stars and galaxies created shortly after the big bang. A major problem for modern cosmology is determining how such lumpy aggregations of matter managed to form in an early universe that was almost perfectly featureless and uniform. The space telescope may detect light from galaxies in

the process of being formed to answer this fundamental question.

Planetary abundance: While most scientists agree the planets in Earth's solar system are not unique, there is no direct evidence of the existence of planets orbiting other stars. Working above Earth's obscuring atmosphere, the space telescope's instruments will be able to precisely monitor the positions of various stars. If the stars appear to move, or wobble slightly, it probably would be because of the gravitational interaction of a large planet.

Black holes: A high-priority early project for the space telescope is to study the light emitted from several leading black hole candidates. Black holes are massive collapsed stars whose gravity is so intense not even light can escape. The black hole, therefore, is not directly visible. But as dust and debris are sucked into the dark star, it is accelerated and heated to extreme temperatures, triggering bursts of high energy radiation. Such beacons should be detectable by the space telescope.

Quasars: Astronomers do not know what to make of quasi-stellar radio sources, or quasars, the most energetic objects known in the universe. They are believed to be compact objects, but because they are so clearly visible at enormous distances, scientists believe they are driven by energy sources that are not explainable with humanity's current knowledge of physics. One possibility is that quasars are the active cores of infant galaxies powered by massive black holes. Data from the space telescope may help resolve the mystery.

Solar system studies: The space telescope's sensitive cameras will routinely take snapshots of the planets in Earth's solar system comparable in detail to those taken by passing space probes. By monitoring the atmosphere of Jupiter over long periods, for example, the telescope will be able to study the behaviour of its atmosphere in unprecedented detail, perhaps giving scientists insights into the forces that shape Earth's environment.

Oxygen may be killing you: expert

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 10, (Reuters) — Oxygen gives life, but it also may take it away.

Byung-Pil Yu, a physiologist who is researching the ageing process at the University of Texas Health Science Centre in San Antonio, said experiments indicate that oxygen causes living cells to age because of the effects of respiratory waste products called "free radicals."

"Oxygen is both a blessing and curse," said Yu. "We must have oxygen to survive, but it is also a source of damage to cellular functions."

He told Reuters that most of the oxygen we breathe combines with hydrogen and converts into water, which is excreted from the body in several ways. However, as much as eight per

cent of the oxygen we take in converts into unstable "free radicals."

Those free radicals then progress through the body, modifying the healthy cells they come in contact with, Yu said.

When a free radical pairs up with a fat cell, for example, the fat cell is converted into the harmful chemical hydrogen peroxide, he said.

"Over time, tissue is damaged by free radicals and that is what causes ageing," he said.

Free radical activity is increasingly being looked at as a source of disease such as cancer, diabetes, arteriosclerosis and arthritis, Yu said.

Ageing theories associated with free radicals first emerged in the 1950s, but faded into obscurity, Yu said. Now, scientists are again focusing

on the role of the unusual molecules in human health.

"Medicine is filled with fads. This is the latest one, but it appears to have some validity," Yu said.

In addition to oxygen, free radicals come from sources such as X-rays, sunlight and hydrocarbons, Yu said. In effect, the human body is constantly bombarded by free radicals.

Humans survive this onslaught because the body has defence mechanisms that protect it from the effects of free radicals, Yu said.

Vitamins E and C, for example, absorb the molecules and render them harmless. But, Yu said, "this defence system is not perfect so there is a continuous escape of free radicals."

There is no evidence, according to Yu, that taking extra doses of the vitamins will make one immune from free radical effects.

You said that only effective means of reducing free radicals is to cut food intake. For reasons not completely understood, reduction of food somehow suppresses free radical reaction, he said.

This may explain why rat experiments at the San Antonio Centre show that the animals live longer when their food intake is cut, he said.

Yu does not hold out much hope that the effects of free radicals can be ameliorated enough to slow or stop the human ageing process.

"About the only thing we can say is: Don't eat so much," he said.

Japanese live the longest: survey

ATLANTA, April 10, (UPI) — The Japanese live longest, Hungarians the youngest and US people rank in the middle in a survey of life expectancy in leading industrialised nations, federal officials said.

Average life expectancy at birth in Japan was 79.1 years in 1987, the last year for which analysis of death rate figures was available, the centres for Disease Control said. The United States, where people can expect to live an average of 75 years, ranked 13th among the 33 countries surveyed.

"There is something about the Japanese lifestyle that contributes to longevity," said Robert Hahn, a CDC epidemiologist and author of the study. "I don't know if it's diet or some other lifestyle factor — exercise, lack of hypertension, weight. I imagine it's a combination."

Hungary's mean life expectancy at birth the same year was 69.7 years, the CDC said.

In general, the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union had the poorest showing in the study of developed countries that supply annual mortality figures to the World Health Organisation.

Russia, where people can expect to live an average of 69.8 years, was second from the bottom in the life expectancy ratings. Romanians do a little better at 69.9 years. Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland tied for the next lowest life expectancy level — 71 years.

Hahn said the lower life expectancy figures in Eastern Europe are likely because of poor health habits.

Lifestyle

"I believe they have very high rates of smoking and I suspect they have poor lifestyle characteristics as well," he said.

Several Scandinavian nations and Western European countries appeared high on the list.

Switzerland, Iceland, Sweden and Spain followed Japan at the top of the rankings with 77.6, 77.4, 77.1 and 76.6 years of life expectancy, respectively. The Netherlands, Greece and Canada were next in line, tied at 76.5 years.

The report indicated that an increase in a country's per capita expenditure on health does not necessarily lead to greater life expectancy.

The United States spent an average of \$1,926 per person for health care in 1986 — more than double the average per capita health expenditure for all the other countries. Japan spent \$831 per capita the same year.

The three biggest killers in the 33 developed countries were heart disease, accounting for 30 per cent of deaths, cancer, 21 per cent, and stroke, 14 per cent.

The report said cigarette smoking also was responsible for 14 per cent of the annual deaths, killing an estimated 1.5 million in the 33 countries.

"The large number of deaths attributable to cigarette smoking indicates the reduction of this risk factor would substantially increase life expectancy in the developed world," the report said.

The proportions of US deaths caused by cancer and heart disease were higher than for the other 32 countries, the CDC study showed. However, death from the developed world's two biggest killers are on the decline in the United States.

Between 1973 and 1983, mortality from heart disease declined more rapidly in the United States than in any other developed country, the report said.

on Saturday they had succeeded in isolating an antibody that prevents the Aids virus from multiplying once inside a human cell.

At present, the major drug used to fight Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids), Azt, carries with it serious side effects and only slows the progress of the disease in the body. It cannot permanently stop the disease.

Dr Jean Paul Levy, head of France's National Agency for Aids Research (Anrs), said Chermann's find was important but would not immediately stem the tide of Aids.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Drummer Tommy Lee of the flamboyant heavy metal rock group Mötley Crüe suffered a mild concussion when he fell while swinging down a rope from on-stage scaffolding during a concert, authorities said.

The heavily tattooed Lee, who is married to actress Heather Locklear, was released Sunday from Yale-New Haven hospital. Hospital spokesman Tom Lutz said that he did not know how the 26-year-old Lee fell except that the stunt "was part of the routine" at the concert Saturday.

Mötley Crüe was scheduled to perform Tuesday in Binghamton, New York, before launching its tour, the band pledged that even though all members had undergone drug rehabilitation, its concerts would be just as raucous as in the past.

"We don't just play rock 'n' roll, we live it," bassist Nikki Sixx was quoted as saying in People magazine earlier this year. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: After writing hits for groups and performing such as Alabama and Jimmy Buffet, Mac McAnally is finding his place on the record charts.

McAnally, a 31-year-old native of Belmont, Mississippi, has hit the top 10 on the country music charts with "Back Where I Came From." The song takes listeners to McAnally's past, when his father was a school principal and his mother played piano for gospel quartets. McAnally dropped out of high school to play piano and guitar in bars.

A loner in his early days, McAnally turned to songwriting. Alabama started the country music ball rolling for McAnally in 1981 when the group recorded its version of "Old Flame," and Buffet had a hit with McAnally's "It's My Job." (AP)



Doctor's embrace

Four-year-old Monserat Sierra is embraced by Health Minister Julian Garcia Vargas while at the same time embraces his son Juan, 4. Monserat, who carries in her body Aids anti-bodies, has been in the news in the past few days as a court ruled that she be allowed to attend school. Most parents of the other children have kept their children away from school to prevent possible contact with Monserat. Doctors have diagnosed that her condition is not contagious. (Reuters wirephoto)

COVINGTON, Texas: Political pundits who like to point out what a difference one single vote can make can now use this small Texas town as an example.

Residents voted \$1.50 on Saturday to allow the sales of package beer and wine in an election that drew more ballots than any in the town's history. Only three registered voters did not participate.

And those three who failed to vote are bound to be badgered a bit by voters from the losing side, Mayor Jim Clinkscales said.

"I know one of those who didn't vote," Clinkscales said. "And it wouldn't be too hard to narrow it down to find out the others." (AP)

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: Princess Chulabhorn, the youngest daughter of King Bhumibol of Thailand, dedicated a city square in honour of her father in front of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

"Our national hope for peace, freedom and a better quality of life unites us regardless of the geographical distance of our two nations and the difference in our cultures," the princess, a scientist who was recently appointed the World Health Organisation's goodwill ambassador for international Aids programmes, said during a brief ceremony Sunday. (AP)

NEW YORK: Actress Lee Remick says her battle with cancer has changed the way she approaches life.

"I used to be anxious and eager — gotta do everything and be everywhere. No, I say, don't gotta. Don't gotta do anything. Except not hurt anybody else," Remick said in the May issue of Ladies Home Journal.

Remick was in France filming a movie last year when she developed a fever she could not get rid of. When she came home, doctors confirmed that she had a massive tumour on one kidney and some of her lung cells were affected.

Dramatic changes of glaciers

WASHINGTON, April 10, (Kuna): Dramatic changes in the behaviour of glaciers flowing into the sea from Antarctica are leading to concern among scientists that part of the ice sheet may collapse, sending so much ice off the land and into the ocean that sea levels around the world could rise suddenly as much as 20 feet.

The collapse could happen within decades, they say, or it could still be centuries away, according to the latest studies published here.

Previously, scientists had worried that global warming might cause part of the Antarctic ice cap, the world's largest, simply to melt.

But in a report issued by the National Science Foundation, a panel of glaciologists, oceanographers, and climatologists present data showing that a potentially worse problem is the stability of the ice cap itself.

The report's principal observation is that the flow of two major ice streams feeding the West Antarctic ice sheet has been suddenly disrupted.

Ice streams are massive rivers of ice 300 miles long and 50 miles that flow out to the edges of an ice sheet.

Mothers nod to daughters

Let her fight: survey

NEW YORK, April 10, (UPI) — A survey of 55 US women around the country shows 60 per cent would not oppose their daughters serving in military combat units, McCall's magazine reported.

Seventy-nine per cent of those questioned said they approved of combat duty for women in general.

Those questioned said they saw no difference between women "risking their lives as policewomen or firefighters and those who put their lives at risk in the military," the magazine reported.

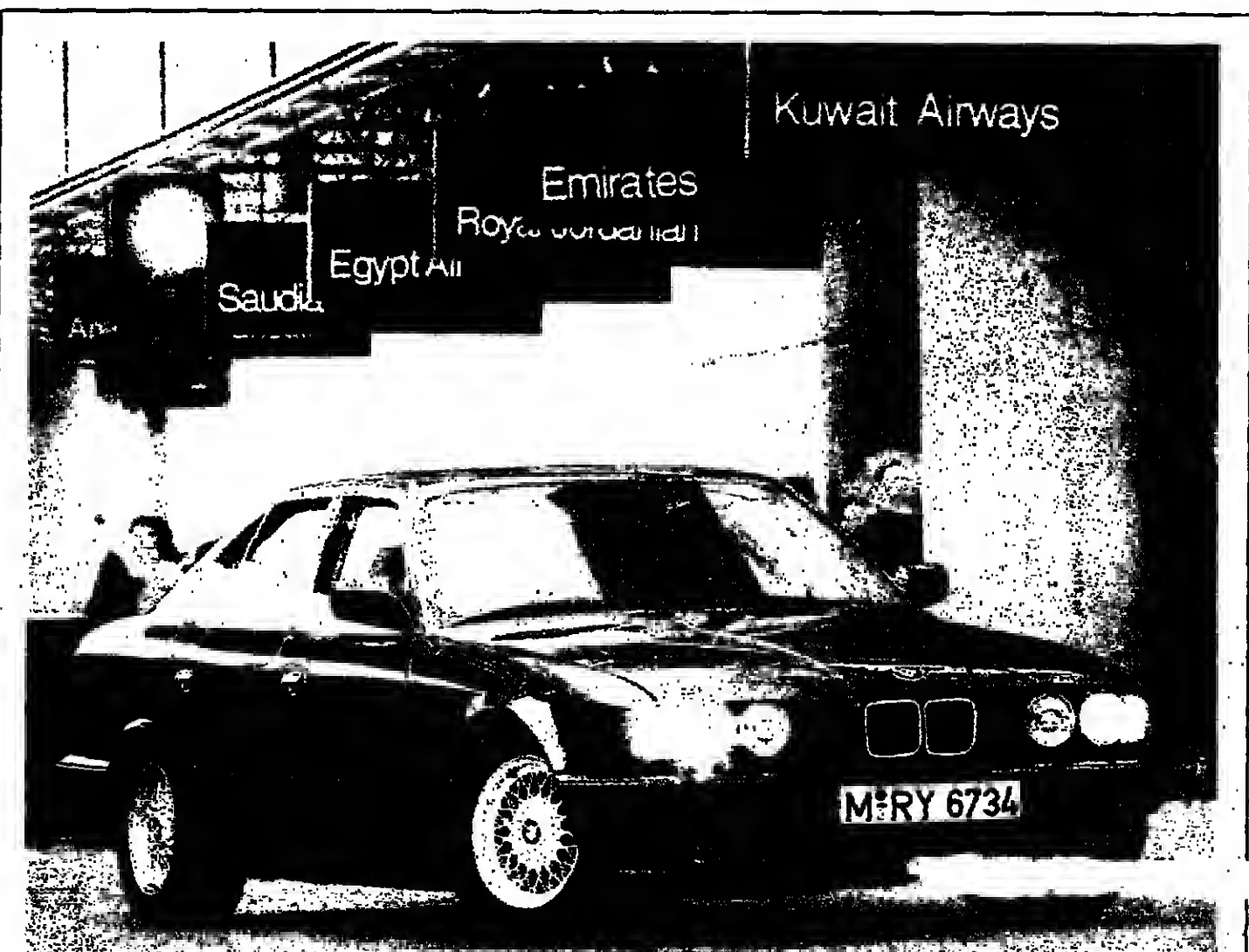
The telephone survey of McCall's readers, conducted between Feb 13 and 19, was a joint effort by the magazine and Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., who has proposed a four-year experiment in which women would serve in army units, such as infantry and tank corps, now only open to men.

No margin of error was given for the poll.

In the poll, 83 per cent of women between 18 and 45 said they favoured combat for women, while 74 per cent of those over 45 approved of the idea.

"The most important aspect of this discovery is that we have found an additional mechanism to allow us to produce a kind of chemotherapy," he said, referring to the treatment of illnesses with chemical substances.

Chermann and his team at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) in Marseille said



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The ultimate driving machine

INTERNATIONAL

Fujimori becomes favourite to win poll

LIMA, April 10. (Reuters): Alberto Fujimori, a son of Japanese immigrants, became the favourite to be the next president of Peru yesterday when a powerful member of the ruling Apra Party moved to support his candidacy.

Fujimori, a former university rector who has never held elected office, surged from nowhere to finish second behind centre-rightist and fellow political novice Mario Vargas Llosa, a celebrated novelist, in Sunday's first round of elections.

"Earthquake in the hall of boxes," said the cover of Lima newsweekly Oiga in yesterday's edition, summarising the surprising shift in the political landscape.

Fujimori and Vargas Llosa will compete in a final round in late May or early June.

Many Apra Party leaders, including President Alan Garcia, are known to harbour an intense personal dislike for Vargas Llosa, who won about 33 per cent of the vote to Fujimori's 30 per cent, unofficial returns showed.

The candidate of the ruling Social Democratic American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (Apra), Luis Alva Castro, won about 16 per cent of the vote, according to the returns.

"The support of the Apristas for Fujimori is implicit," Luis Alvarado, a powerful Apra member who is president of the lower house of congress, said, adding the party could formally endorse Fujimori.

"The Aprista Party and the majority of Peruvians will have to support Fujimori... the big loser has been Vargas Llosa and the right wing," Alvarado told Reuters.

Comeback Some political analysts who said Fujimori had become the clear favourite going into the second round did not rule out a comeback by Vargas Llosa.

"If the second round were tomorrow, the emotional factor would prevail and Cambio '90 (Fujimori's Party) would be the clear favourite," said Alfredo Torres, director of the independent polling institute Apoyo SA.

Fujimori benefitted from widespread fear of traumatic surgery or "shock" measures under Vargas Llosa to become the overnight sensation in the elections.

Vargas Llosa had backed stringent measures like massive cuts in government spending and tax reform as the solution to Peru's poverty and industrial collapse.

Leaders of the losing Marxist coalition united left predicted eventual victory for Fujimori and hinted they would support him.

"The Fujimori phenomenon has broken the mould... the citizenry will not accept what all power in Peru, with so much money, tried to impose," said losing united left candidate Henry Paez, referring to the millions of dollars spent by Vargas Llosa on his campaign.

Fujimori will need support from left-of-centre parties, which, combined, won about a quarter of the vote, to beat Vargas Llosa, tipped for months as the certain victor.

Argentina wants ties with Britain

LONDON, April 10. (Reuters): Argentina intends to press its claim to the Falkland Islands when the time is right, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said yesterday.

Cavallo, the first member of the Argentine cabinet to visit Britain since the 1982 war between the two countries over the South Pacific islands, was speaking after meeting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

He declined to comment on the details of his talks with Thatcher, who has insisted that the sovereignty of the Falklands is not negotiable.

He said Argentina wanted talks with Britain over the sovereignty of the islands but would wait until the time appeared right for discussion.

"We need the appropriate circumstances for us to create the necessary climate of confidence, not only between the Britishers and the Argentines but especially between the islanders and the inhabitants of the Argentine nation," he said.

"Only within that environment will such a conflicting subject be able to be discussed."

Cavallo's visit is one of a series of moves to return relations to a pre-war footing and to forge closer trade links, which the battered Argentine economy badly needs.

The two nations agreed in February to restore diplomatic ties, broken after Argentine troops invaded the staunchly British colony, called the Malvinas by Argentina, in 1982.

British forces recaptured the island 10 weeks later.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Move to issue Poinsett pardon: There were clear moves in the US Congress in Washington Monday to introduce legislation asking President George Bush to issue a pardon for former National Security Adviser John Poinsett who was found guilty Saturday of the five criminal charges made against him.

The moves were made despite the fact that Poinsett's lawyers have not indicated whether they will seek such a pardon and the White House has said Bush will not comment on the verdict. But the possibility of pardon has been raised before in the cases of other Iran-Contra defendants. (Kuna)

Suspect turns self in: A man sought in the killing of a customer who was in line ahead of him at a drive-in fast-food restaurant in Augusta, Georgia, was charged with murder today after turning himself in.

Gary Bernard Scott, 23, of Augusta, surrendered at the Richmond County law enforcement centre and was held without bond, authorities said. A warrant had been issued for his arrest. (AP)

Surname charge: A woman is challenging a judge's ruling that she cannot change her surname without her husband's permission.

Lucille Anne Riccielli from Providence, Rhode Island has filed an appeal of probate judge's decision in superior court, saying she would like to use her maiden name because there are no more men to carry it on, according to court papers. (AP)

Planes collide, 2 dead: A commuter jet that had just taken off collided with a smaller plane, killing the two people aboard the smaller aircraft, authorities said in Gadsden, Alabama.

The pilot of the Atlantic Southeast Airlines jet, a Brazilian-made Embraer, returned safely to Gadsden municipal airport with his four passengers. (AP)

Alligator invades store: Shop owner in Spring Hill, Florida, Ed Shea was talking on the phone when a customer walked in, turned around and fled without a word.

Shea looked over his shoulder and saw the reason the man had bolted. There was a 7-foot (2.1-metre) alligator in his store.

"At first I thought it was plastic and that someone was just trying to scare me," said the 43-year-old proprietor of National Floor Care products.

When he realised the animal was real he called the wildlife officials.

The uninformed guest just sat there for the 20 minutes it took for officials to arrive.

But when the trappers slipped a noose on the alligator it turned mean, slipping boxes, upending chairs and attacking a vacuum cleaner. It clenched the appliance's cord in its teeth.

"I've only been here a year and a half, and the last thing I would have thought was that there would be an alligator sitting behind me in my shop," said Shea. (AP)

Orthodox leader to visit US: The Ecumenical patriarch of Dimitrios of 250 million eastern orthodox Christians will meet with US President George Bush during his first US tour in July from Istanbul, church officials said Monday. (AP)

Lawyer calls in sick: Three months after the longest and costliest US criminal trial ended with a deadlocked jury, the suspect's second court case was postponed Monday when his lawyer called in sick.

Alleged child molester Raymond Buckey made American legal history in January when his three-year, \$15 million trial ended with the jury declaring itself unable to come to a conclusion on his guilt.

Buckey, 31, and his 63-year-old mother, Peggy McMarrin Buckey, had been accused of molesting 11 children at a Manhattan beach, California, kindergarten during a five-year period. (AP)

One Siamese twin dies: One of the Siamese twins surgically separated last week at the chest and abdomen has died, a hospital spokeswoman said in St Petersburg, Florida.

James Watkins died Sunday at 3:20 pm said Catherine Coleman at All Children's Hospital. The cause of death was not immediately being released, she said. (AP)

Ryan White mourned: Ryan White, "the boy next door" who put a youthful face on Aids and fought discrimination against its victims, was mourned on Monday in Indianapolis, Indiana by classmates who honoured his 5 1/2-year struggle with the disease.

White, 18, died shortly after 7 am (1200 GMT) Sunday of lung congestion from an Aids-related respiratory infection. He had been in critical condition on a ventilator at Riley Hospital for children since March 29. (AP)

Vaughan eulogized heavenly gift: Singer Sarah Vaughan, whose voice earned her the title "divine one" and gave her a world-wide following, was buried Monday after a funeral at the tiny Baptist church that was the first showcase for her talent.

"A voice born in heaven is now singing in heaven again, with an angelic choir," said the Rev. Granville E. Seward, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist church.

Vaughan died on lung cancer April 3 at her California home. She was 66. (AP)

Humourist Faulk dies: Humourist John Henry Faulk, whose challenge to 1950s blacklisting in the entertainment industry made him an honoured advocate of free speech and civil liberties, has died at the age of 76 in Austin, Texas.

Africa

Angola peace talks: As moves gather pace to restart the Angolan peace process, Jonas Savimbi's US-backed UNITA rebels are tempting Angola's Marxist government with some concessions.

The rebels are offering an immediate ceasefire and a conditional recognition of the Angolan state.

The concessions, announced in a statement released in Lisbon Monday and signed by Savimbi and other top-ranking rebel officials, have plenty of strings attached. But they could overcome an impasse that has thwarted peace efforts since a shaky first truce collapsed last summer.

They follow three months of what is said to be the heaviest fighting in the war so far and stepped-up UNITA bomb attacks in the capital Luanda.

According to the statement, the rebels said they were "ready to cease hostilities immediately and without preconditions," and would recognise the Angolan state on the basis of accords signed before independence from Portugal in 1975. (AP)

Attorney Chris Andersen, public service minister the past five years, will move to the economically

important Mines Ministry.

The moves yesterday were part Mugabe's new government. Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) Party won a landslide victory in national elections March 28-30. The new cabinet was to be sworn in today.

Mugabe trimmed his cabinet from 42 to 38 ministers and deputies. He named as deputy Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa, who was accused of plotting to overthrow Mugabe.

The Home Affairs Ministry controls the police, its paramilitary units and internal security.



Giant poster

Workers remove a giant poster with the picture of presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori on Monday, one day after the national presidential elections. Fujimori, a son of Japanese immigrants, became the favourite to be elected the next president of Peru, when a powerful member of the ruling Apra party moved to support his candidacy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Big crowd expected

Symposium on UFO sightings

PENSACOLA, Florida, April 10. (UPI): UFO enthusiasts are signing up at a record pace to attend a three-day symposium this summer in an area that has had hundreds of reports of alleged sightings, organizers said yesterday.

The 21st annual international UFO symposium in July is expected to attract 600 people to hear a dozen speakers, including a man who claims to have taken dozens of pictures of unidentified flying objects.

A news conference was held yesterday to formally announce the 1990 symposium. Vicki P. Lyons, chairwoman of the event, said the conference is "setting records for advanced registration."

The symposium is sponsored by Mufon, the mutual UFO network of Seguin, Texas, a non-profit, private organization that investigates reports of sightings nationwide.

Charles Flannigan, Mufon's Florida director, said Pensacola was picked because of reports of "scores" of UFO sightings.

There have been 200 sightings in the Pensacola-Gulf Breeze area since November 1987, when a weekly newspaper published Polaroid photographs of an alleged UFO in the night sky.

Bizarre tales began emerging and were documented by investigators for Mufon. Among other things, some people reported seeing dimly-lit aliens. Others have reported being abducted.

Soares praises Chissano: Portuguese President Mario Soares on Monday praised Mozambique's gradual steps toward political pluralism and urged African leaders to install multi-party democracies all over the continent.

Speaking at a state banquet for visiting Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, Soares said democracy was "an indispensable condition for social, economic and cultural progress" in Africa. (AP)

Latin America

Contras agree to disband: Nicaragua's Contra rebels agreed Monday to surrender their weapons and disband one week before a new government takes office.

Nicaragua's Defence Ministry had no comment on the accord. But it said there had been clashes between army troops and the US-backed rebels over the weekend and accused Contra bands of rustling nearly 700 head of cattle. No casualties were reported.

"The counter-revolutionary forces continue violating the halt to offensive military operations decreed unilaterally by the revolutionary government of Nicaragua," a one-page Defence Ministry "communiqué" said.

Under the agreement, the statement said, the rebels inside Nicaragua and in base camps in Honduran border areas will begin disbanding and disarming at midday April 18 at the latest. (AP)

Bees spark concern in Salvador: The Agriculture Ministry and Red Cross launched a campaign to control swarms of aggressive "killer bees" that have fatally attacked two people, a Red Cross spokesman said Monday in San Salvador.

The campaign involves Red Cross volunteers and 20 specialists from the Agriculture Ministry, Red Cross spokesman Carlos Mendoza said.

"The campaign is not aimed at destroying the swarms but at capturing them and moving them to safe places where they are not a danger to the population," Mendoza said.

The Red Cross has treated 40 people this month in western Santa Ana and La Libertad provinces for serious stings from the aggressive insects, called Africanized bees but popularly known as killer bees for their aggressive swarming behaviour, he said.

World summit tackles illicit drug trafficking

US makes progress in reducing demand

LONDON, April 10. (UPI): Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan told a world conference the United States has made progress in reducing demand for illegal drugs, which Colombian President Virgilio Barco said was vital in the fight against drug trafficking.

At the opening of a world conference yesterday aimed at finding ways to reduce demand for drugs and promote co-operation in combating the production and trafficking of cocaine, Sullivan said his goal for the meeting was to publicise "our efforts for demand reduction in our drug effort."

Sullivan denied that anti-drug efforts have failed in the United

States, where the number of hard-core drug users and drug-related violence continue to rise.

"For the past two years, casual drug use among high school seniors has dropped significantly, which means fewer of them are likely to become heavy users in the future," Sullivan said.

Fight

Barco, whose country is on the front line in the drug war, said "the fight against drugs will only be won when we have succeeded in penetrating the hearts, minds and habits of the consumers of cocaine, opium, heroin and other lethal drugs."

Troubles mount in Natal conflict

DURBAN, April 10. (Agencies): Activists erected barricades on township roads to halt public transport yesterday in support of a work-stoppage in strife-torn Natal province protesting the behaviour of territorial police in black factional fighting.

Business in the Indian ocean port city and the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg reported a lull.

Turnout of black workers yesterday as fighting continued between rival black movements despite the deployment of extra army units and police in the area.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions called the boycott to protest alleged bias by police in the self-governing territory of KwaZulu in favour of the Zulu movement Inkatha of moderate black leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Bathelezi's followers in KwaZulu — covering large predominantly Zulu areas of Natal — are fighting supporters of African National Congress-linked organizations, including Cosatu, and the United Democratic Front.

As escalation of the conflict in the Edenburg valley outside the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg has left more than 80 dead and scores wounded in the past two weeks, some 3,000 people have died in fighting since 1987.

Not confined to the Pietermaritzburg area, the conflict over the weekend gripped the township of KwaMakuta. South of Durban, where at least 15 people were injured and one killed. Refugees said the fighting began when KwaZulu policemen shot and wounded a mini-bus driver, who crashed into another vehicle.

At least three other people were killed and dozens injured in the area of Stanger, 40 miles (65 km) north of Durban, over the weekend after hundreds of Inkatha supporters marched on the local police station and demanded ANC representatives be ordered out of town.

Private relief sources estimated yesterday recent fighting has forced nearly 40,000 people into refugee camps.

In Durban's central business district, relief workers report the presence of 4,000 refugees, mainly from the black township of Umhlanga seeking shelter at bus stops, along the beach front, vacant lots of land and church centers.

Wendy Annecke, the Natal coastal co-ordinator of the women's organization Black Sash, has made urgent appeals for clothing, food, medicine and blankets.

Sunday night, about 250 women and children who fled KwaMakuta huddled at the Midway gardens opposite the city hall.

South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) yesterday lost control of Johannesburg council following revelations that councillors ran a network which spied on citizens.

The anti-apartheid opposition Democratic Party (DP) unexpectedly won a vote of no-confidence in the NP, enabling them to take over the country's biggest municipality.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu has asked African church leaders to help seven black South African exiles who allege they were tortured in African National Congress (ANC) camps, an aide said.



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher chats with President Virgilio Barco of Colombia in London on Monday at the start of an international conference on drugs. Below them is conference logo. (Reuters wirephoto)

28 killed in Bogota unrest

Weekend violence

BOGOTA, April 10. (AP): Two alternate congressmen and a city councilman were among the 28 people killed in weekend violence in Colombia, authorities said yesterday.

Five police and 20 leftist guerrillas also were killed in weekend attacks.

Police on Sunday found the body of Orlando Serrato, an alternate congressman for the ruling Liberal Party, near the town of Soacha, 15 miles (24 kilometres) south of Bogota, a police spokesman said.

Serrato, a resident of Bogota, had been missing since March 30.

Two gunmen fled after assassinating another alternate congressman, Hernandez Rodriguez, as he left a political meeting in southern Bogota police said yesterday. Rodriguez was also a member of the Liberal Party.

Police said they had not established the motives for the two attacks.

Alternate congressmen sit in for congressmen who are sick or cannot be at a specific session.

On Saturday, violence flared in the southern state of Putumayo when some 150 leftist guerrillas attacked in towns of San Francisco and Sibun.

Six more rebels were killed in fighting in different part of the country, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Defence imports by the Colombian government, fighting drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas, almost tripled in 1989, a newspaper report said yesterday.

A report in El Espectador newspaper said the Defence Ministry was Colombia's biggest importer last year, replacing state-run oil and agricultural concerns as the biggest spenders.

Wife's criticism

Menem doesn't mind

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, April 10. (AP): President Carlos Menem admitted in a magazine interview that his wife, Zulema, is one of his principal critics, but said he doesn't mind and couldn't do anything about it if he did.

In an interview published by the weekly newsmagazine Noticias, Menem was asked if he was bothered by the fact that his wife often makes public statements critical of him, his government and its officials.

"It doesn't bother me," Menem was quoted as replying. "Besides, if it did, what am I going to do about it? She is with her rights."

Mrs. Menem, in recent public statements, said she supports her husband's government, but she has criticized individual officials and policies and maintains close friendships with several of her husband's opponents.

She also has publicly referred to her husband as a "womanizer."

Menem was quoted in the interview as saying that "the womanizer label is very exaggerated, because I am not the seducer I may seem to be."

"But I am not such a hypocrite as to be offended by what is said about me or to fight with everyone just to demonstrate my purity," Menem told the magazine.

The 112-nation conference, which ends Wednesday, was convened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in association with the United Nations.

Thatcher, following her opening address, pledged an extra \$7.3 million to Colombia's drug measures.

"Our efforts to reduce production of drugs and to prevent traffic in them can never succeed while demand for drugs is still out there," Thatcher said.

"Without customers, the drug traffickers would soon be out of business."

The conference is seeking to reduce demand for drugs through education and prevention of drug abuse. It also stresses the link between drug abuse and the deadly Aids virus, which among other ways, is spread by drug addicts sharing contaminated hypodermic needles.

The delegates are pushing greater international co-operation to detect and halt drug trafficking and the laundering of drug money, and attempting to monitor and control flows of chemicals used in the production of illegal drugs.

The illegal trade is worth an estimated \$500 billion per year, more than the gross national products of most industrial nations.

Facts have shown that strategies geared only to drug production and trafficking are inevitably doomed to failure.

Barco said, "We must be neither utopian nor defeatist in our outlook. Our aim is to achieve significant improvements in our situation — fewer consumers, less production, less violence, fewer countries involved in the drug problem, a smaller area for the operations of the drug barons, less complicity or tolerance by bankers and the manufacturers of chemicals."

Barco also appealed to the estimated 40 million drug users "to realize that their habit is bringing our countries to the brink of disaster, that their addiction is fostering violence, crime and corruption" throughout "the whole world."

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the United Nations could play a role in fighting drug production, trafficking and abuse because all are global problems that demand a global response.

The next 10 years have been designated as the UN decade against drug abuse and trafficking.

Slavery

"By joining forces, we can put an end to the terrible slavery of drug addiction and stop the violence which it causes," Perez de Cuellar said.

"Let us mobilize all our resources, intellectual, scientific, technical and financial. Let us help all those who are living in the hell of drug addiction. Let us protect those who are fighting so bravely against drug trafficking throughout the world. Let us safeguard our future generations from the scourge of drugs."

Italian Interior Minister Antonio Gava said cocaine use "has reached nowadays such a level of danger which finds no equal, for its rate of growth among other criminal and social phenomena."

He estimated cocaine production at 700 to 800 tons a year, most of it from Colombia. Gava also underscored the damage to the environment — thousands of acres of rainforest are felled each year to grow coca leaves.

Barco urged the delegates to work "on behalf of hundreds of Colombians who have lost their lives in the fight — renowned political leaders, magistrates, judges and journalists, policemen and soldiers, including Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa, a presidential candidate who was assassinated on March 22."

Deaths

The number of deaths resulting from drug intake almost tripled in Europe, including Switzerland, between 1986 and 1989, it was reported.

In 1986, 1,398 persons died in Europe as a result of drug consumption, in 1987 this figure increased to 1,891, 2,535 in 1988 and 3,824 in 1989.

Mugabe appoints 3 whites to key posts; Zimbabwe cabinet to be sworn in

HARARE, April 10. (AP): President Robert Mugabe has reshuffled his cabinet, appointing three whites to key posts and anouncing one-time rival Joshua Nkomo will become one of two vice-presidents.

Rancher and businessman Denis Norman takes over the Transport and National Supplies Ministry and Dr Timothy Stamps was named minister of health, heading a department that must cope with a growing Aids epidemic.

Attorney Chris Andersen, public service minister the past five years, will move to the economically

important Mines Ministry.

The moves yesterday were part Mugabe's new government. Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) Party won a landslide victory in national elections March 28-30. The new cabinet was to be sworn in today.

Mugabe trimmed his cabinet from 42 to 38 ministers and deputies. He named as deputy Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa, who was accused of plotting to overthrow Mugabe.

The Home Affairs Ministry controls the police, its paramilitary units and internal security.

Dabengwa, former intelligence chief of Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union, was jailed without trial from 1982 to 1987 under Zimbabwe's sweeping state of emergency regulations.

He was released from detention during talks between the two rival parties that led to their merger in December 1987.

Nkomo has served in Mugabe's cabinet as a senior minister for rural development but his followers have repeatedly sought to elevate his rank to equal Vice-President Simon Muzenda, a veteran Mugabe loyalist.

Mugabe told reporters the unified party agreed to create the post of a second vice-president of equal rank to Muzenda and both would be assigned duties by his own office.

Other key announcements included Sydney Sekemayi remaining in the sensitive post of security minister and Nathan Shamuyarira keeping his position as foreign affairs minister.

Observers in Harare said the appointment of three whites appeared to be a gesture of trust in Zimbabwe's 90,000-member white community.

Police seek cause of fire

Star death toll reaches 200; three detained in UK ferry blaze

LYSEKIL, Sweden, April 10. (Agencies): Police picked their way through burned-out cabins on the ferry Scandinavian Star today, looking for more victims and for the origin of the weekend fire that killed up to 200 people.

Investigators, who have said they believe the blaze was caused by arson, have not pinpointed how the fire started early on Saturday.

District police chief Roar Onso said police had not inspected all parts of the ship, and were painstakingly making their way through it searching for clues.

Police have found 140 victims, but estimates of the casualty toll ranged up to 200 after many children were discovered among the dead. Children under seven are not registered on passenger lists.

News photographers allowed into lounge areas of the 10,500-ton vessel recorded a devastated scene of black twisted metal, in which nothing combustible remained.

In London, three people have been detained for questioning after a fire on board a British ferry, in which one man died and 31 passengers were injured, it was reported.

The Norröna was 34 miles off the west Wales coast on its way to the Irish republic.

The three people detained were passengers on the ship.

There were 200 passengers and 78 crew on board.

The fire started early yesterday in two separate unoccupied cabins and British police believed it had been started deliberately.

Norwegian police today took charge of the investigation of the fire on Scandinavian Star, which occurred midway through the overnight voyage from Oslo to Frederikshavn, Denmark.

A commission of high-level officials from Norway, Sweden and Denmark was due to start work in Oslo today, and a maritime inquiry was to open on Wednesday in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The disaster revived warnings by Scandinavian sailors against what they called the proliferation of ships flying "flags of convenience" in Nordic waters which come under less strict safety controls.

The Scandinavian Star, bought by the Danish Vr Da-No company from Seascope of Miami, Florida in the United States, was registered in the Bahamas. It had been operating on the Norway-Denmark line for one week.

"It is absolutely inconceivable that this accident could have happened on a nationally registered ship," said Jorgen Jensen, of the Swedish Seamen's Union.

Fire and maritime officials criticised safety measures on board the Scandinavian Star, where police told of finding "bodies everywhere" and "many dead children" in the fire-gutted ferry.

About 358 people were rescued from the vessel. Officials in Norway and Denmark said early evidence indicated the fire was deliberately set, as the vessel's captain contended.

Fire services in the small west coast Swedish harbour of Lysekil had put out the fires on board the vessel by yesterday and police and rescue services were able to penetrate most areas of the charred vessel.

"It is a horrible sight. There are many, many children and it seems as though there are many more dead than we were led to believe from the passenger lists," said police inspector Arno Laaksonen.

"There are bodies everywhere, piled up high. Parents who have tried to save their children and are lying on top of them. By the end of the operation, we may be looking at 200 dead," Laaksonen said.

Severe criticism of safety measures on board, and of the crew of the Scandinavian Star, flooded in yesterday as more details emerged of the chaotic evacuation of the vessel, the lack of trained personnel and no common language among the Philippine and Portuguese crew.

"Communication is alpha and omega in all safety work. It is vital that the crew are able to communicate with each other," said Ivan Leth, chairman of Denmark's school of seamanship.

The three Scandinavian Seamen's Unions have repeatedly complained of the practice of registering Scandinavian ships under foreign flags of convenience to permit the use of inexpensive foreign crews.

There was also criticism of Hugo Larsen, the vessel's captain, who left his vessel apparently thinking all had been saved.

Founder of Opus Dei honoured

VATICAN CITY, April 10. (Reuters): Pope John Paul yesterday honoured the Spanish founder of Opus Dei, the conservative Roman Catholic organisation which some have accused of excessive secrecy and of trying to be a "church within a church."

The Vatican said the Pope approved a decree giving Monsignor Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer the title of "venerable," which recognises he had shown heroic virtues before his death in 1975.

Escriva, who founded the zealously orthodox Opus Dei (God's work) in 1928, is now within two steps of becoming a saint.



The gutted interior of the Scandinavian Star. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nine militants charged

French Basque militants

PARIS, April 10. (AP): Nine French Basque militants suspected of being part of a roving commando unit that carried out terrorist attacks in Spain have been charged and jailed, judicial sources said yesterday.

The arrests are the first in what is a French network of the Spanish Basque terrorist organisation, Euzkadi militar, responsible for numerous deaths.

The nine, eight men and one woman, were transferred on Sunday to Paris from Bayonne in

a military transport plane.

Examining judge Gilles Boulouque, who specialises in terrorist investigations, charged them on Sunday night with criminal association related to a terrorist enterprise, the judicial sources said, speaking on condition they not be named.

Three of the nine were also charged with possession of arms and explosives.

The sources said that six of the nine admitted to taking part in numerous attacks on Spanish soil, but no charges on those

counts were immediately brought because Spanish authorities had not yet officially complained to France.

The nine were arrested on Wednesday, two days after Spanish police arrested another Frenchman, Henri Parot, in Seville, Spain, Police found 300 kilos (660 pounds) of explosives in his car.

Parot admitted to participating in attacks that killed 33 people in Spain over the past few years, Spanish police sources said on Sunday.

IRA bomb explodes Rover, kills 4

DOWNPATRICK, Northern Ireland, April 10. (AP): A remote-control bomb planted by the Irish Republican Army exploded under a Land Rover, killing four soldiers just as security chiefs were warning of a possible attack in the area.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher linked the latest terrorist attack in the British province to recent decisions by the Irish Supreme Court not to extradite prisoners wanted in Northern Ireland on terrorism charges.

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, discounted such a link. "I don't think anybody could seriously believe that the people who carry out these atrocities could have any regard for the decisions of any court," Haughey said. "They follow their own little agenda."

In a statement to news media, the IRA's south down brigade claimed responsibility for planting the bomb on a road near the Downpatrick race course in county down, in the southeast part of the province.

The blast blew the vehicle 30 feet (10 metres) into the air and hurled it "crushed like a sardine tin" into a nearby field, police said.

Several other soldiers travelling in front in another Land Rover suffered shock, said a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Two motorists were injured.

The soldiers were members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, the mainly Protestant, locally recruited regiment of the British Army, said the spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom.

They were identified as Lance Cpl. John Bradley, 25; Pvt. John Birch, 28; Pvt. Steven Smart, 23; and Pvt. Michael Adams, 23.

A pair of overalls was found one-half mile (a kilometre) from the site of the explosion. Security chiefs then warned all police and army units that an attack might be imminent.

Thatcher alluded to Friday's decision by the Irish Supreme Court not to extradite Owen Carron, a former Northern Ireland member of parliament, saying he was a political prisoner.

UK's longest prison siege

Two more surrender

MANCHESTER, England, April 10. (Reuters): British prison authorities, waging a war of nerves to end a jail siege which has plunged the country's penal system into crisis, managed to persuade two more prisoners to surrender yesterday night.

The two teenage inmates abandoned a nine-day-old occupation at Strangeways prison in the northern city of Manchester which sparked copcat violence in at least 14 other jails.

They were brought down from the roof of Strangeways in a mobile crane, but about 20 prisoners remained defiantly inside the jail where one of Britain's worst prison riots this century erupted on April 1.

Officials have tried a combination of negotiation and psychological warfare to try to end the Strangeways siege, despite increasing pressure to use force to regain control of the wrecked jail.

Critics of Britain's prisons say they humiliate and brutalise men who sometimes live three to a cell. In older prisons, many built more than 100 years ago, inmates are locked up for 21 hours a day.

Officials blamed the disturbances in Strangeways for a weekend of violence in other prisons before authorities regained control yesterday.

In the western city of Bristol, specially trained squads moved into Horfield jail to dislodge more than 450 inmates who seized control of part of the prison on Sunday night.

Some of those involved in the Bristol riot played a part in an earlier disturbance at the notorious Dartmoor prison, where one prisoner died when a cell was set on fire during a rampage by more than 100 inmates.

At Dartmoor, a lone prisoner was still defiant on the roof yesterday, demanding to be transferred to another jail.

At a young offenders' centre at Stoke Heath in central England, a small group of prisoners ended an overnight rooftop protest yesterday.



A damaged cell in D Wing of Dartmoor prison April 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

the Home Office said.

In London, British prison officers staged a show of force yesterday to regain control of Horfield jail.

Specially trained squads moved into Horfield jail in the western city of Bristol to dislodge more than 450 inmates who seized control of part of the prison on Sunday night.

Bristol governor Roy Smith said that although 13 inmates and 12 warders were hurt in the disturbance at his jail, there was no confrontation

when prison officers moved in. "It was really a show of strength that enabled us to get control," he said.

Some of those involved in the Bristol riot played a part in an earlier disturbance at the notorious Dartmoor prison.

As the occupation continued at Strangeways following some of Britain's worst ever prison rioting nine days ago, pressure grew for force to be used to bring the wrecked jail back under control.

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Mitsotakis (right) and Stefanopoulos (left) talk to reporters after a meeting April 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mitsotakis set to form cabinet

Sweeping changes

ATHENS, April 10, (Reuters): Conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis set to work today to appoint a new Greek government which, despite a razor-thin majority in parliament, plans sweeping changes in foreign and economic policy.

Mitsotakis, due to meet President Christos Sartzetakis to receive a mandate to form a government, said the cabinet would be sworn in tomorrow. His New Democracy Party triumphed in general elections on Sunday but needs to rely on the support of one centrist deputy to control 151 seats in the 300-member parliament.

In foreign policy, the conservatives want to cultivate closer relations with the European Economic Community and the United States. They also plan to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

On the economy, they have pledged to slash government spending, which soared under socialist rule from 1981 to 1989, and to revitalise the private sector.

Several potential ministers in the new cabinet held office over the past 10 months when New Democracy participated in two coalition governments after inconclusive elections in June and November.

Political commentators said Mitsotakis would name a small cabinet whose first priority would be to tackle the economic crisis.

Greece has public debts of \$55 billion and an annual inflation rate of 16.5 per cent, the highest in the European Community.

Possible cabinet ministers include:

● Miltiades Evert, 51, an economist who was expected to be foreign minister unless Mitsotakis decides to handle the portfolio personally.

He was minister of finance and industry when New Democracy ruled from 1974 to 1981. He was elected mayor of Athens in 1986 and was health minister in the conservative-communist coalition which ruled from June to October last year.

Evert, known for his fast decisions and determination to cut Greece's huge bureaucracy, is considered the most likely candidate to eventually succeed Mitsotakis as New Democracy's leader.

● Antonis Samaras, 39, a Harvard-trained economist and the rising star of the conservative camp.

Results

Party	PC	Sts
New Democracy	46.88	150
Panhellenic Socialist Movement	38.61	123
Communist Coalition	10.28	19
Ecologists Democrat	0.77	1
Renewal	0.66	1
Independent deputies to single seat districts	1.02	4
Indpt. Muslim in Rodopi	0.45	4
Indpt. Muslim in Xanthi	0.26	1

New Democracy secured the support of the Democratic Renewal Party and has an absolute majority of 151 seats in the 300-seat Parliament.

Conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis is due to announce his government tomorrow.

Gorbachev will call for total surrender

Presidential Council rejects Lithuanian call for compromise

MOSCOW, April 10, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, with calls to imitate rebel Lithuania's drive for independence echoing along the Western rim of his multi-national state, indicated that he would push for total surrender.

A meeting of the Gorbachev's newly-appointed Presidential Council yesterday rejected Lithuanian calls for compromise and warned of further measures unless the Baltic republic withdrew its March 11 declaration of independence.

But the president of neighbouring Soviet Latvia predicted that his parliament would

make a similar declaration when it convened next month, while 60,000 Georgians attended a rally demanding independence for their transcaucasian republic.

"The present Lithuanian leadership is blocking any way out of the crisis with its anti-constitutional actions and the escalation of illegal measures," the council said after a meeting chaired by Gorbachev.

"Additional economic, political and other measures should be taken to protect the USSR constitution and the interest of citizens living in the republic and the Soviet Union as a whole."

The council did not elaborate, although some details were expected to emerge after Gorbachev met visiting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd today. Presidential spokesman Arkady Maslennikov was also due to give a news conference.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis immediately condemned the clear attempt to intensify four weeks of Kremlin pressure on Lithuania.

"Maybe the West will see now that Gorbachev does not fit the image that he likes to put across," he told a news conference.

He said his republic should not allow "provocations" which would give the Kremlin an excuse for tough measures.

The council's statement, the latest shot in weeks of verbal battles between Moscow and Lithuania, was intended as a reply to a message sent by the Lithuanians to Gorbachev last month. That in turn responded to a Kremlin warning of "serious consequences" if they did not come into line.

In their message, signed by Landsbergis and approved by parliament on Thursday, the Lithuanians called on the Soviet leader for negotiations and indicated willingness to compromise on certain issues, with the exception of the declaration.

The council dismissed the Lithuanian olive branch, saying it was "not constructive and did not open an avenue towards settling problems."

"In fact, it leads matters to a dead end," it said.

The Soviet leadership clearly hopes its pressure on Lithuania, an independent state before it was annexed in 1940, will discourage Latvia from following the example of its rebellious neighbour.

But Latvian President Anatoly Gorbunov's said independence forces in his republic would certainly be able to gather the two-thirds majority needed for such a move when they met on May 3.

"It is difficult to say what kind of independence the deputies will declare, but about the fact that independence will be declared, about that I have no doubts," he told a news conference during a visit to Switzerland.

The parliament of the third Baltic republic, Estonia, attempting to avoid a head-on collision with the Kremlin, declared last month that it had begun a "transitional period" which would end in restoration of its pre-war independence.

While Kremlin attention is focussed on the restive Baltic republics, demands for independence have grown in Georgia, where elections were postponed to allow newly-emerging, mostly nationalist parties, to organise.

Gorbachev's new Presidential Council will consider a proposal by conservative lawmakers to dissolve the Lithuanian parliament and impose direct central rule on the rebellious republic. Tass reported today.

The Presidential Council was scheduled to meet later today, but it was not known if the situation in Lithuania was on the agenda.

Ethnic Turks start series of hunger strikes

SOFIA, April 10, (AP): Ethnic Turks who returned to Bulgaria from Turkey, where they emigrated last year, yesterday started a series of hunger strikes to protest their discrimination in receiving housing and jobs.

Many of the 100,000 or so Turks who came back found their homes occupied, their houses destroyed and their jobs taken by other Bulgarian citizens.

The strikes were organised by the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, which now has 100,000 members.

A total of 320,000 ethnic Turks and other Bulgarian Muslims crossed into Turkey to flee official persecution and denial of their ethnic and religious rights.

In the northeastern town of Shumen and in other towns and villages an unspecified number of returnees started at 9 am what the state news agency BTA described as a "relay hunger strike" to last until the end of the week.



Walesa

Lech Walesa's chief of staff said on Tuesday the Solidarity leader wants to force Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski to resign and take over the presidency himself.

Krzysztof Pus, chief of Walesa's secretariat, told Reuters Walesa should become president of Poland soon because Jaruzelski was doing nothing to speed up reforms.

Asked if Walesa believed Jaruzelski should step down in his favour, Pus said "Yes, either resignation or force him to resign. One of the two."

C. Europe leaders discuss security

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, April 10, (AP): Lithuania's thrust for independence should be resolved in dialogue with Moscow so as not to jeopardise European integration, foreign ministers trying to reshape central Europe indicated yesterday.

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary joined Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia at a conference in Bratislava to discuss new structures for Europe's security. Participants also considered how to curb the historic conflicts in the region as Eastern Europe emerges from 45 years of Soviet domination.

Czechoslovakia won limited support from participants for its proposal to create an all-European security commission that could gradually replace the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis became the first NATO minister to give guarded support to the proposal, calling it a "step in the right direction."

However, foreign ministers at the conference clearly indicated they do not want to antagonise the Soviets, nor to see the crisis over Lithuania derail their efforts at change. Lithuania declared independence from the Soviet Union on March 11.

All declared support for Lithuania's right to self-determination. But Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier noted in comments to reporters that "even the Lithuanians realise the whole process has to be peaceful and in dialogue, and that without the fundamental change in Moscow the very idea of national independence would be out of the question."

"Such fundamental changes (as Lithuanian independence) should take place while maintaining stability," Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski told a news conference. "Otherwise, we will destroy changes that have already taken place and diminish future changes."

The threat posed by nationalism and ethnic conflicts in Eastern Europe occupied much of the day-long discussions.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, in a meeting with outgoing Hungarian President Matyas Szecses, whose socialist party was roundly defeated in Sunday's elections in Hungary, agreed to accord more rights to ethnic Hungarians in Czechoslovakia. Havel's spokesman Michael Zantovsky said. Those rights would include Hungarian language education for the 690,000 ethnic Hungarians in Czechoslovakia.

Many East Europeans are concerned that the nationalism and ethnic conflicts that helped to destroy the region's democracies between the world wars could now threaten them again.

The victory Sunday of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, a cent-right party that stresses national values, is sure to raise Hungary's emphasis on the need to care for sizeable Hungarian minorities in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Romania. Ethnic tension in Transylvania exploded in violence last month between Hungarians and Romanians, leaving at least six people dead.



Tens of thousands of Georgian demonstrators raise their clenched fists in the air during a mass rally, April 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Antall emerges powerful

Forum lays emphasis on tradition

BUDAPEST, April 10, (AP): A historian has emerged as Hungary's most powerful political figure, leading the conservative Hungarian Democratic Forum that won free elections with its appeal to the Hungarian pride that was stifled under the communists.

The party has been vilified by critics as nationalistic and anti-semitic. But its leader, Jozsef Antall, denies such charges, and other senior Democratic Forum officials say its emphasis on traditional Hungarian values including a strong sense of the Hungarian nation that extends to minorities outside the borders has been misunderstood.

The Forum, however, is possibly courting trouble with its militant championing of Hungarian minority issues in

the neighbouring countries.

Antall told a cheering crowd yesterday that his government will be the spokesman of 15 million Hungarians — referring not only to the 11 million people in the country, but to ethnic Hungarians who became foreign citizens in the wake of the 1920 Trianon Peace Treaty, in which Romania took Transylvania from Hungary.

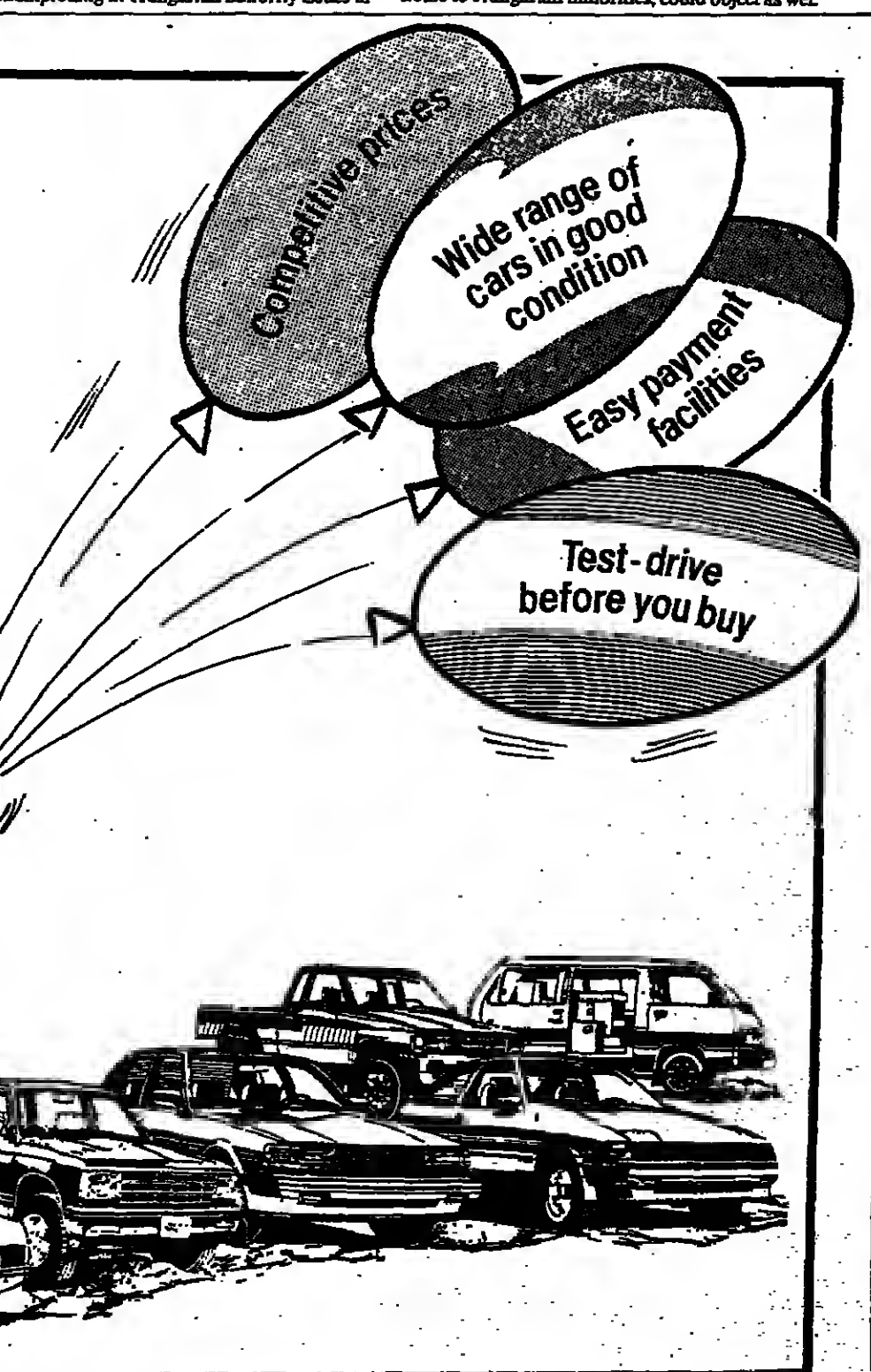
Romania, site of violent anti-Hungarian riots last month, already is worried about Hungarian interference and may not be keen on the idea of more intense scrutiny of the fate of Hungarians within its borders.

Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, also home to Hungarian minorities, could object as well.

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Arms cut talks no snag to summit

WASHINGTON, April 10. (AP) Snags in talks to cut long-range nuclear weapon will not affect plans for next month's superpower summit between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the White House said yesterday.

"We have a lot of things to talk about in our relationship besides arms control," said White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater.

"We are prepared to go ahead with the summit regardless of what happens on the arms control part of it," he said.

Problems in reaching an arms agreement are not the only cloud hanging over the summit. Bush has warned Moscow that a crackdown in the secessionist republic of Lithuania would mar superpower relations and threaten progress across the entire superpower agenda.

Bush and Gorbachev are to meet in the United States for five days, beginning May 30, for their second summit.

The centrepiece of the meeting was to have been the signing of an outline for a treaty on cutting strategic nuclear weapons.

However, prospects for an agreement diminished last week after United States and Soviet Union reported little progress during three days of high-level talks in Washington.

In particular, Secretary of State James Baker said they remained at odds over air-launched and sea-launched cruise missiles, which have long been a key obstacle to reaching a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start).

US officials privately said the Soviet Union had pulled back in some areas where the two sides previously had agreed.

Fitzwater said the Bush administration remained hopeful, as it had during the first Bush-Gorbachev summit at Malta, that an agreement would be reached in time for the summit.

E. German coalition talks focus on unification

EAST BERLIN, April 10. (AP) With his proposed cabinet almost in place, prime minister-designate Lothar de Maiziere resumed talks today aimed at forging a programme to guide the East German coalition government to unification with West Germany.

The Christian Democrat leader unveiled

the tentative shape of East Germany's first Democratic government yesterday after gruelling negotiations with the country's diverse political factions.

The leadership of the various parties planned to meet this afternoon to approve the cabinet nominations following talks on finishing work on the programme already

under way.

The proposed cabinet brings together the major political parties and includes a well-known peace activist as defence minister and a Lutheran pastor as foreign minister.

Parliament is expected to vote on the nominations to the 24-member cabinet on Thursday.

Yesterday agreement followed five days of talks with the Social Democrats, who finished second to the Christian Democrats in East Germany's first free elections on March 18.

The two major parties still must harmonise their differing views on unification, with West Germany the top priority of the new

government.

At stake for East Germans is how much of the Socialist welfare state will remain once the two countries merge.

Accustomed to generous food and housing subsidies, East Germans are unsettled by the probable loss of many state benefits as

their country makes the transition to a market-oriented economy.

The tough job of hammering out agreement on union of the East and West German currencies falls to Social Democrat Wilfried Romberg who pledged yesterday to fight for a 1-to-1 conversion of East German marks to West German marks.



Bitten by shark

Peter McCullin of the Fishery's Department displays the surfboard bitten by a tiger shark at Queensland's Greenhills beach yesterday. The surfer survived, receiving cuts and abrasions. It was the second such attack on Australia's gold coast in a week. (Reuters wirephoto)

French offer to HK

Up to 1,500 passports

HONG KONG, April 10. (Reuters) France has made a firm commitment to offer up to 1,500 passports to Hong Kong employees of French companies, and other European countries will follow suit, a British government minister said today.

Francis Maude did not elaborate on the French offer, which follows international lobbying by the British Government to secure foreign passports for residents of the colony before it is handed back to China in 1997.

He told a news conference Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg were finalising plans to offer passports.

"A number of other European Economic Community countries are actively considering what they can do," Maude added.

China's bloody military suppression of the student-led pro-democracy movement in Beijing last June rocked confidence in Hong Kong and hastened plans by many key professionals to emigrate.

Britain hopes that if Hong Kong people are given foreign passports they will feel secure enough to stay. It has proposed giving full British passports to 50,000 key residents and their families in an effort to stem the brain-drain.

Ochirbat keeps control of army

Mongolia communists to stay in power

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, April 10. (AP) Communist Party General Secretary Gombogayya Ochirbat declared an end today to seven decades of control over trade unions, artists and scientists, but said the police and army should remain in the party's hands.

He spoke at the opening of an extraordinary party congress called to reconsider the party's most basic goals and policies in the face of the challenge from new, reformist opposition parties.

"We need new theoretical concepts, starting with what socialism is and how it should be applied on Mongolian soil," Ochirbat said in an hour-long televised speech to the congress' 926 delegates.

The Communist Party, formally called the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, had indicated it is determined to stay in power despite the ouster of communists elsewhere in the Soviet bloc. The fall of communism in Eastern Europe inspired Mongolia's new opposition to hold demonstrations that forced the ruling party last month to hastily call this week's special congress.

The delegates were elected directly by the party's 90,000 members for the first time. They include only 41 members of the current, 146-member party central committee. One of the con-

gress' chief tasks will be to elect a new central committee, which in turn may oust Ochirbat and the four other members of the party Politburo.

Ochirbat and the Politburo were appointed only last month when an opposition hunger strike forced the old party leadership to resign. Their chances of surviving are not yet clear.

"Sluggish reaction to the new situation will amount to suicide," Ochirbat warned the deputies.

He said the party must end dictatorial control of trade unions, journalists, artists, scientists and mass organisations such as the youth league. Many people in these groups already have rebelled against the party leadership.

He said the party also will cease making administrative decisions that should be handled by the government.

But Ochirbat said the party will keep its cells in the army and police force, ensuring its control of them. He said these cells would be reformed, but did not give details.

The new opposition groups had demanded that the army serve the government, not the ruling party.

Ochirbat also warned against growing disorder in factories since the pro-democracy demonstrations began in December. The government announced last week that industrial production for the first quarter had fallen

from last year due to absenteeism and slacking off at factories, and blamed it on the new spirit of challenging authority in all areas.

However, in an interview with the Japanese television network NHK that was published in today's party newspaper, Unen, Ochirbat said he had not lost confidence in the party.

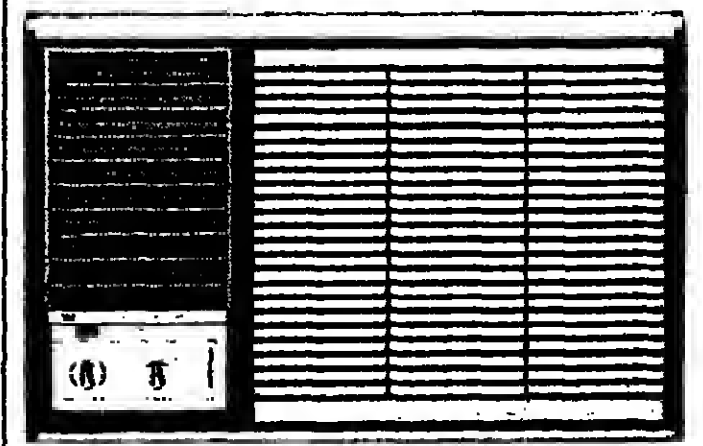
Asked if he thought it could win legislative elections tentatively planned for July, he said, "we think people have confidence in the party that has led the country to progress over the past 70 years."

The party, which receives \$6.6 million from the government each year, has pledged to become self-financing, but its assets still far exceed those of the opposition groups, and they fear there cannot be an equal contest. Some of them lack even offices and telephones.

In his speech to the congress, Ochirbat reaffirmed the importance of Mongolia's ties to the Soviet Union, which some opposition groups say has ruled Mongolia like a colony since it won independence from China in 1921.

No opposition protests are expected during the three-day party congress. The government decreed over the weekend that application for any demonstration must be submitted a week in advance, and demonstrations that might disrupt public life will not be permitted.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

High school students violence prone: report

Call to select better TV shows

A RECENT study by the Education Ministry's Psychological Service Department called for a more careful selection of TV programmes in order to help reduce the phenomenon of violence at schools. The study conducted on a number of students in the 4th intermediate, 1st, 2nd and 3rd secondary classes, admitted the fact that "violence and vandalism is a phenomenon in Kuwaiti schools. The study laid special emphasis on studying the self, family, school, cultural and media factors that may influence violence and vandalism. It

found that violence is higher among students who are around 18 years old.

Proposals

The study made a number of proposals aimed at finding solutions to student violence. It called for training students to exhibit a higher degree of self control particularly in cases of anger and tense situations. The study said that it found a number of students with severe degree of tension particularly those who live away from their parents. This is an important cause of violence at schools, the study stressed. The

study insisted on the great importance of parental care in curbing the tendency to violence among teenagers.

The study also found that a considerable percentage of the students covered had the characteristic of enjoying a perverse pleasure in exhibiting their stubbornness either to their teachers or colleagues.

No regret

Such students furthermore do not feel any regret after doing this. It said that a large number of students were found to be jealous of their colleagues or teachers.

This, the study said, makes these students resort to beating and quarrelling.

The study added that a large number of the students admitted to resorting to fights, and vandalism against their colleagues and teachers. Although these students admitted this behaviour goes against the teachings of Islam and human values, they still said they did it. A large number of students also claimed that teachers resort to corporal punishment to punish them. The study called for urging teachers not to resort to such methods.

Intifada charity festival in Kuwait

THE Arab Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Intifada at the Kuwaiti Graduates Society is holding a special charity festival under the title: The Children of Stones Festival.

The chairman of the Information Committee at the Society Saud Al-Enizi said that the festival will concentrate on educating children and developing a sense of patriotism in sharing national responsibility with their Palestinian counterparts.

Activities

Speaking at a press conference held at the society's headquarters the official said that the festival is held in token of the heroic role played by the children of stones in occupied Palestine, adding that the festival contained a large variety of activities adding that these included special contests with prizes to the winners.

He added that a book fair will be held in which a number of social welfare societies will participate and artistic paintings will be sold also in the charity bazaar the returns of which will be used to fund the Intifada.

Contractors responsible for damage to roads: MPW

CONTRACTORS undertaking various projects are primarily responsible for the damages to roads, the director of research and laboratories department at the Ministry of Public Works, Zaid Abdul Latif said.

The official said that the department conducts regular evaluation of roads, flyovers and motorways projects through the computer data bank and disclosed that the roads researches centre recently began a new programme to operate the roads network.

Lah tests are conducted on all material to be used in the construction of roads and conducts advanced research in different fields related to the problems that face the local builders of road. The centre has also contributed to improving the quality of local produced gravel. All research is conducted using the latest scientific equipment and technology, the official said.

Headed that the centre began covering the gravel with a soft class of cement to avoid separation of the gravel and criticised some contractors who do not want to carry out new methods in their work. He added that researches are ongoing to mix asphalt with caoutchouc after it proved successful in improving the asphalt mixture which resists high temperature. He accused contractors who carry out the road projects and some drivers who use roads specially truck drivers of being the reason for cracks and collapses in these roads. The contractors pave these roads in a wrong way, he said.



School festival

Under the auspices of the director general of Hawalli Educational Area Abdullah Al Rujab, the social clubs held their final festival activities, Monday.

The festival took place at Al Hassan Bin Al Haitham Secondary School.

The ceremony was attended by Mayor of Sabah Al Salem suburb Naser Al Hajri and a number of officials at the Hawalli Educational Area. The festival had included some folkloric displays performed by the children from Hawalli Educational Area. Pictures show (above) Rujab inspecting the exhibition organised to mark the occasion and (below) some children performing PT.



Review private sector role in economy: report

ACCORDING priority to the private sector to play an active role in the economic activities requires an objective review to evaluate challenges and achievements of the previous stage a report issued by the Union of Arab Gulf Chambers of Commerce has said.

It added that the ability of the private sector to shoulder responsibilities of the forthcoming stage, depends to a great extent on the success of the private sector to utilise its abilities and experiences.

The report pointed out that the first mission that faces the private sector in the Arab Gulf area is to avoid the mistakes that led to the economic stagnation of the previous stages. It added that the private sector was in a manner of speech, excused for its weak performance during that stage due to its debts to banks which led to the collapse of many

companies and establishments. However, it said that investors who deposited funds in liquid investments succeeded to override the economic consequences.

Challenge

The union pointed out that the second challenge relates to the importance of accepting failure as the environment in which businessmen are working is a mixture of risks and chances as there are equal probabilities for success and failure. The private sector should prove efficiency to escape from failure and achieve success.

The private sector should further develop its administrative structure by adopting the latest administrative methods to overcome the administrative, financial and marketing problems. The union called on Gulf banks to bear more responsibilities to compensate the expected reduction in the government investments by granting securities and long term facilities to the private sector. This issue requires legal and organisational amendments to allow banks to run their assets and plans according to the needs of the private sector.

The report pointed out that ability of Gulf private sector to enter into activities in the international markets is one of the most significant challenges that face private sector in future beside exporting of national products to foreign markets. The report hoped that Gulf chambers will set up commercial delegations to visit different countries of the world to market the national products of the Gulf states. It also called on governments of Gulf states to offer more facilities and securities for private sectors and also called on the private sector to identify profitable investment projects.

Bader Al Yaqoob said that the prices at the local co-op are very high and everything is quite expensive contrary to other co-ops, adding that some of the essential commodities are scarce and needing quick and due attention by the relevant authorities as the majority of residents in the area fall in the limited-income category. He said that cleanliness is a rare sight at the co-op and the marks of carelessness are found everywhere, urging the relevant authorities at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry to take the necessary action and put a stop to the deteriorating situation inside the co-op.

Servicing

He also said that the sanitary installations frequently require servicing and the servicemen often tear up the inside of the house and leave everything broken. This has resulted in the leakage of sewage outside the houses, he added.

Fraj Al-Wrad said that the area has been the scene of a number of thefts and the police have been unable to keep the situation under control or arrest the people responsible. He said that the patrols are a rare sight at night and that reckless drivers cause a real problem at night, and despite the frequent reports to the police stations nothing has happened.

He said that the police station had only two officers on duty, although it serves four blocks, adding that the health services are not as it should be and there is a marked lack of control over nurses and doctors.

CSC plan to redress declining productivity

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) for administrative development affairs will undertake several studies during the next five-year-plan 1990/1995 including two studies aimed at redressing the issue of low productivity of the government staff.

Disclosing this information, assistant undersecretary of CSC, Dr Naser Al Sania said that the commission will also conduct a study on the present combination of government staff which will analyse all negative aspects of this combination.

The official added that studies already undertaken in this respect, indicate that Kuwaiti employees in the government sector represent 45 per cent of total public servants as at the end of June 1989 and have increased by 29 per cent during the present five-year-plan against a reduction of 12 per cent in non-Kuwaiti staff.

Combination

He attributed the increase to the application of recommendations of the Higher Committee for Administrative Development and to the increase of Kuwaiti graduates of the university and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training as well as non-appointment of non-Kuwaitis in the public sector.

The second part of this study deals with planning a methodology to change the combination of Kuwaiti manpower in the public sector, the official said.

Programme

He added that study has determined aims of the programme to change the combination of government staff as follows:

— Increase the percentage of Kuwaiti manpower at the end of the five-year plan.

— Having qualified and trained Kuwaiti manpower that is able to replace non-Kuwaiti manpower specially employees who are expected to retire or reach legal age of retirement during the years of the plan.

Link

He added that the study follows up the linking education and needs of government authorities for manpower. It also stresses on the importance of reconsidering material, social and moral encouragement to Kuwaiti youth to join technical and professional jobs. It also calls to expand the base of technical training according to scientific bases. He added that the commission completed and approved a comprehensive programme to change the combination of manpower to be carried out during the next five year plan, he said.

Nouri receives

KUWAIT, April 10, (Kuna): Education minister Anwar Abdulah Al Nouri received at his office yesterday Governor of Hawalli Abdul Latif Al Barges.

They discussed educational issues of concern to the government.

Prices beginning to stabilise: consumers

Stop hoarding plea

LAST week, the government announced a number of urgent measures aimed at reducing the prices of essential commodities, including fresh fruit and vegetables, which had soared on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.

Prices of some vegetables have increased by over 400 per cent and now that half of the holy month has gone by prices are now showing a degree of stability.

A senior government official said that the government is exerting all efforts to redress this issue, but added that government efforts are limited as Kuwait adopts a free economic system which is based on the theory of supply and demand. However, he disclosed that the government could channel the sales of essential commodities through government owned companies.

In this respect, the Cabinet of Ministers continued their review and were informed of a number of measures undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to prevent any further increases in prices and to bring balance and stability to the market.

The Council of Ministers recently discussed two reports presented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in addition to another by Kuwait Municipality which dealt with methods to redress the issue and avoid falling into similar situations in the future.

Re-export According to reliable sources, the re-export of some food to countries like South Korea and Turkey during the beginning of the holy month contributed to the price increase. However, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken some measures, which prohibits the exportation of some food items like bananas and other fruit due to scarcity and consequent rise in prices.

Commenting on the restrictions, the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs stated that the ban on exports is only a temporary measure and is flexible in accordance with market conditions.

Deliberate On the price increase issue, guests at Saud Al Traiqi Diwan in Faiba unanimously said that increase in prices during the holy month of Ramadan is a deliberate act of merchants and commented that censors should be applied to curb this exploitation of the public.

Retired individuals are most affected with the price increase

due to their limited income, the guests said and also commented that the public is partly to blame for "hoarding commodities at the eleventh hour" during this month of fasting.

Ali Mohammed Al Mkhanni, a guest said the Consumer Protection Department is slow to curb this practice and added that many commodities which are slow to move have also been registering an increase in prices.

Mesha Al Mejren, a shopper at Kefan Co-operative Society, said that prices and services of co-operatives are far better than those at popular markets and proposed the formation of family centres at all societies.

Sabah Al Shemari, a shopper said that market prices of vegetables and fruits had begun to stabilise as most customers have obtained their Ramadan supplies. He also praised the efforts exerted by officials to help the market stabilise by providing adequate supplies and this has contributed to merchants reducing prices to a competitive bid. He added that the sudden decrease in prices has come as a shock to all shoppers.

However, Ibrahim Naser on the other hand, complained from the rise in mutton prices and called on the Consumer Protection Department to increase their censorship of butchers.



Health week

Under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Kuwait celebrated this week the World Health Day and Kuwait's Health Week. A function was held at Dasmah Theatre to mark the two occasions. Planning and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi attended the function deputising for HH the Crown Prince. Speeches were delivered and certificates were given away. The function also included some musical items staged by children of the various playgroups in the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italian envoy

KUWAIT, April 10, (Kuna): Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Sager met here yesterday with the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Marco Colombo.

They discussed bilateral, commercial and economic relations and means of developing them in all spheres.

Rwandan envoy

KUWAIT, April 10, (Kuna): Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad received today Ambassador of Rwanda to Kuwait Insomere Simon.

They reviewed the friendly relations between Rwanda and Kuwait and means of boosting their bilateral co-operation in various spheres.

New consul

KUWAIT, April 10, (Kuna): Kuwait's consul General in Bombay, India, Katherin Maarefi leaves the country tonight to assume his duties there.

Maarefi was the charge d'affaires at the Kuwaiti embassy in Tehran before being transferred to the General Diwan two years ago.

The new consul replaces Faisal Issa Al Youssef who was moved to the General Diwan.

More tankers

KUWAIT, April 10, (Opecna): Abdul Fattah Al Badr, chairman and managing director of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company, has affirmed that Kuwait is keen to expand its fleet under a programme drawn up by the company.

In a statement Badr said that Kuwait had signed a contract for the purchase of four tankers which were expected to be delivered at the beginning of 1992.

He said the four tankers being built in South Korea and Japan would include two very large vessels for crude oil with a capacity of 280,000 tons each.

The other two, he added, were designed to lift liquified gas with a capacity of 75,000 Cu metres each.

He estimated the cost of the four vessels at \$295 million.

Bonds market

Economic sources have revealed that relevant authorities are making a study aimed at activating the bonds market and officials of the market held several meetings with investors and dealers to study the practical problems of the market.

The sources added that the Central Bank in particular concerned in the study specially because it has the bonds of government treasury and it is the authority that issues the bonds.

Sources added that several investors prefer to hold their bonds than selling them because of the high profits and returns from these bonds and commented that trading in those bonds is not profitable.

They added that bonds are considered the best present investment tool in the local market because of secured returns.

Educational techniques department services

THE director of educational techniques department at the Education Ministry, Sulaiman Al Dakheel has said that the department offers various services to the ministry such as operating and installing broadcasts and audio services for conferences, seminars or national rallies and festivals. The department also provides schools with educational techniques and instructive instruments that serve teachers in their work, he said.

Dakheel pointed out that the department manufactures some of these instruments and has extended this expertise to other countries and foreign establishments. The department also buys other techniques from local market or import them and also maintains equipments of educational institutes and labs of schools. The supervisors of the department pay field visits to schools to train teachers on using these techniques and the department co-operates with Kuwait University in this field. The university organised a training programme for some employees of the department a few days ago to train these employees on using and maintaining labs at schools. The department will complete an educational programme about Kuwait as it existed in the past and the level at present during this year.

The department also intends to open a permanent exhibit to display the latest techniques for teachers. The department will continue in its project to produce and prepare for intensive courses for pupils in maths and sciences beside preparing a number of educational programmes during next few months, he said.

Sabah Al Salem residents unhappy with facilities

No schools, fire brigade

A LOCAL daily has carried out a popular quest in Sabah Al Salem area from which it learnt that the residents suffer from the insufficiency of some public services and the inadequacy of others.

Adel Al Rudaini said that the area is deficient in schools, and that children have to commute to schools inside the city, which constitutes a tall order to be parents.

He said that the matter has been brought to the attention of the relevant authorities on more than one occasions alongwith the fact that the houses in the area are not designed for comfort and lacked many services, pointing out that the ground floors, for instances, contained no rooms, the areas are small and the doors too many.

He pointed out that rainwater leaked and formed swamps inside houses, which has not yet been sorted out by the authorities and has destroyed our furniture.

He said that the maintenance services are not quite up to par, adding that this is the result of lack of adequate attention and supervision by the NHA authorities, as the maintenance servicemen made openings close to the central A/C units thinking that these will provide better ventilation during this summer, but has been a source of hot drafts and resulted in frequent malfunctions in the A/C system.

Inconvenience

He said that the National Housing Authority must find a way to prevent its contractors from sub-contracting under-experienced small contractors who often are responsible for the resultant inconveniences.

Bader Al Yaqoob said that the prices at the local co-op are very high and everything is quite expensive contrary to other co-ops, adding that some of the essential commodities are scarce and needing quick and due attention by the relevant authorities as the majority of residents in the area fall in the limited-income category.

He said that cleanliness is a rare sight at the co-op and the marks of carelessness are found everywhere, urging the relevant authorities at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry to take the necessary action and put a stop to the deteriorating situation inside the co-op.

Servicing

He also said that the sanitary installations frequently require servicing and the

servicemen often tear up the inside of the house and leave everything broken. This has resulted in the leakage of sewage outside the houses, he added.

Fraj Al-Wrad said that the area has been the scene of a number of thefts and the police have been unable to keep the situation under control or arrest the people responsible.

He said that the patrols are a rare sight at night and that reckless drivers cause a real problem at night, and despite the frequent reports to the police stations nothing has happened.

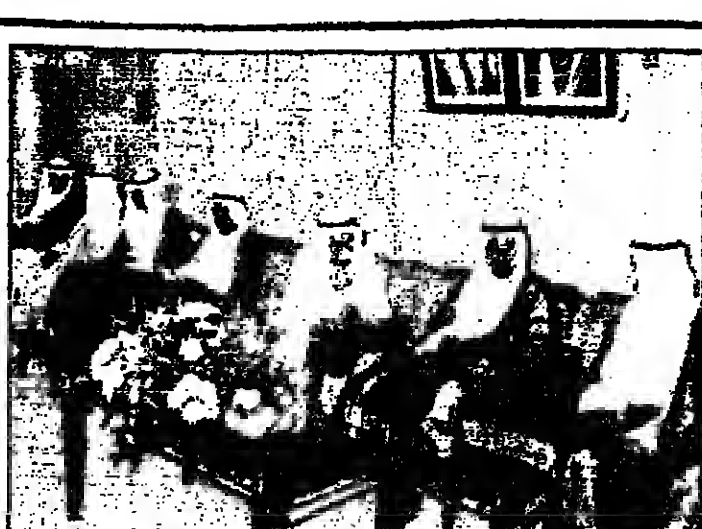
He said that the police station had only two officers on duty, although it serves four blocks, adding that the health services are not as it should be and there is a marked lack of control over nurses and doctors.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom right corner.



Amir visits popular cafes

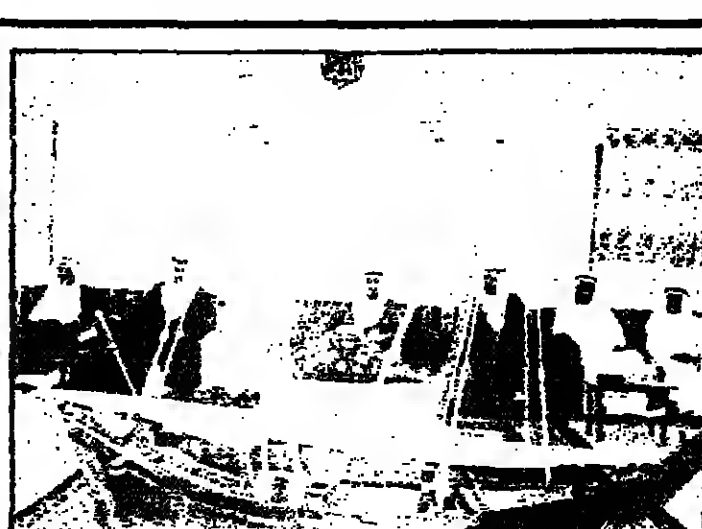
HH the Amir last night visited popular cafes, fishing union and Al Qhatall (shipmakers' diwan).



HH the Amir was accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Defence Minister and Acting



Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Sheikh Mishaal Al Jaber, Sheikh Majid Jaber Al Hamoud Al Jaber, Undersecretary of the



Amir Diwan Mohammad Darweesh Al Aradi

Smuggling now highly sophisticated: Taher

12 operations successfully foiled

THE commander of Al Jahra Governorate Patrols, Major Abdul Aziz Al Taher was quoted as saying that the command had successfully foiled 12 smuggling operations since its establishment.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that these operations had contributed in a small measure in making known the efficiency of this patrol and this is evidenced by the reduction in the number of attempts in the past.

Statistically speaking, the official said that the command reported 10,492 traffic infringements during 1989, extended 5,900 assistance of various types to the public and cited 372 violations against the country's labour law.

Commenting on smuggling operations, he said that these have become highly sophisticated and now encompass financial, high powered cars and smugglers resorting to carrying and using weapons.

He said that increased co-operation between the border centres and the patrol commands had played a major role in reducing the number of smuggling attempts.

Capability

He said that the current position of patrols is more meaningful than distributing such patrols at police stations. The Ministry of Interior has provided the

patrols controls with various types of arms and technical equipment and is looking at ways and means to enhance this capability.

Meanwhile, Major Taher said that his command is a telecommunication network interconnecting the various Interior Ministry apparatuses. He added that patrols are mainly intensified at places which are deemed easy to hide from police such as Scrap Area, Al Sulabiya Pens, Al Layyah, Al Abdali and Al Salmi.



Children in the class.



Performing religious rites.



Standing at morning assembly.



The children receiving a lesson about domestic animals

MOE celebrates Year of the Child

Enhanced development at kindergartens

By Qassim Nayel

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Education recently organised several celebrations to mark "The International Year of the Child".

In an initiative which could be deemed the first of its kind in Kuwait, the Ministry of Education represented by the Public Relations Department organised a programme and invited a number of journalists in order to familiarise themselves with the ministry's kindergarten activities.

During their tour in the ministry's kindergartens, journalists were accompanied by Muna Al Furah from the ministry's

public relations department and the tour covered three kindergartens located at Al Jabriya, Al Riqqa and Hawalli.

Enhanced developments at these kindergartens confirm that the kindergartens are no longer considered as places to deposit children during absence of their parents. The relevant educational studies had confirmed the importance of the kindergarten in the development of children. Consequently, the Ministry of Education exerted considerable efforts to child patronage and is keen to keep abreast with modern methods

through the Curriculum Development Committee which was formed by the ministry in 1976.

The ministry defined several objectives to be considered during the kindergarten stage for children from three to six years of age including enhancing Islamic emotions among the children in order to be well versed in Islamic values.

Apart from the above, the ministry aims at enhancing the patriotic spirit among the children and their loyalty to the Arab and Islamic nations. Meanwhile, the headmistress of Al Riqqa

based Baghdad Kindergarten, Badriya Al Turkey, was quoted as saying that development in the kindergartens were going in accordance with the prescribed plan. She said that a parent council had been formed to co-operate with the kindergarten administration.

Also speaking on the issue, the headmistress of Al Jabriya Kindergarten, Fawziya Ghith was quoted as saying that the social activities adopted by her kindergarten were aiming at enhancing the spiritual and religious values among children in addition to increasing patriotic emotions

among them.

Journalists were told that kindergarten children were divided into three denominations: the first of which was for children between 3-4 years, the second for children between 4-5 and the third for children over five years.

On the other hand, there are 120 government kindergartens in the country with 1,264 classes and about 37,000 children including about 3,000 stateless children.

The number of the teachers working in the kindergartens sector had amounted to about 2,304 teachers with 331 expatriates.



Bhutto remembered

The Pakistan People's Youth Association, Kuwait, recently celebrated the death anniversary of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at a local restaurant. Special prayers were offered for the deceased's soul and homage was paid by the workers of the association. Speaking at the occasion the president of the PPYA Syed Saleem Abbas Reza paid tributes to the late premier and eulogised his services and great sacrifice for the country. The participants were entertained with iftar dinner.

4 kidnappers held

Security personnel of the Hawalli Governorate have arrested four youths in Ardiya accused of abducting and attempting to rape a maid.

According to police sources, the victim was returning from the co-operative, when the four suspects forcibly took her in their car and drove off. However, another maid seeing the incident, immediately reported to the police with a description of the suspects.

Policeman fined KD 100

THE Misdemeanour Court fined a police officer KD 100 for beating up the man and causing injuries to his car.

The court was told that the officer had called for the man who was driving his car to stop, but the man ignored him and drove on.

Kuwaiti sugar plant in Sudan successful

KUWAIT, April 10, (Kuna): The Kuwait Real Estate Investment Group said yesterday that the Kenana Sugar Company Project it is administering in Sudan has become the biggest Arab agro-industrial project for exploiting the available Arab natural resources.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency, the group said the project aims at providing sugar, which is a basic consumer commodity, within the framework of Arab food security.

The statement stressed that the project has been successful and it is now the biggest sugar project all over the world. It added that the current production of the project is still about 75 per cent from the maximum capacity and its output has reached 310,000 tons during the season of 1986-1987 with low production costs compared with those of similar factories in the world.

The statement added that Kenana Sugar has achieved this position despite the lack of infrastructural facilities in Sudan and the continued decline of the local currency as well as inflation and its impact on local products.

The group said that the idea of agricultural investment in Sudan has surfaced due to the availability of land and water needed for irrigation. The Kenana Sugar Company was established in 1975 with a capital of £10 million that has been increased several times to reach £590 millions in 1983. Kuwait's share in that capital is 30 per cent.

New MEW technique to prevent power failures

Water consumption still high

By Hussain Salama

TO prevent a general power failure as the one that occurred in Kuwait in December 1988, the Ministry of Electricity and Water has introduced a simple technical modification that will prevent power failures in other power stations if one power station fails.

Disclosing this information, Abdulla Al Minayes, the undersecretary at the ministry said that the ministry had undertaken several technical experiments to test the efficiency of the new system which has proved to be highly successful.

Training

Basically, the official said that as per the new system, the load on any defective power station is automatically distributed to be taken over by other operating stations.

While, praising the expertise of foreign experts, the official said that the ministry does have

qualified technical personnel, but occasionally needs to consult foreign counterparts to ensure optimum level of services.

The undersecretary said that the ministry co-operates with Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in several fields related to electricity and water distillation projects. Additionally, the ministry permits students of the Faculty of Engineering to obtain hands-on job experience at the power stations in view of the fact that the ministry will employ these students after graduation. The ministry also organised training courses to enhance the experience of its engineers and technicians and endeavours to install networks with the latest technology.

Commenting on the work-force, the official said that the ministry pays special concern to the Kuwaitisation of its technical and administrative staff and the number of Kuwaiti employees had registered a continued

increase and added that most administrative and technical staff at Al Zour power station are Kuwaitis.

Consumption
Minayes said that water consumption in Kuwait is very high and attributed it partially to the distribution of water metres. The present system obliges landlords to add the value of bills of water consumption in the monthly rents of flats without taking into consideration the number of persons living in each flat.

Nevertheless, he said that the ministry is studying the project of installing water metres at all flats which has incurred some technical problems. He said that introducing individual metres at each flat will positively contribute to reducing water consumption as tenants will have to pay for their average consumption, just as in the case of electricity. The ministry is also studying the feasibility of changing the water networks to redress the redness to drinking water, the official said.

Banquets surplus collected for poor

THE director of the Banquet Food Surplus Collection and Redistribution Committee Abdul Aziz Saud Al Obeid has told a local daily that setting up this committee was the idea of Dr Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Muzzeini who once visited a similar committee in Saudi Arabia.

Redistributing

He added that he liked the idea of collecting and redistributing food served at iftar banquets during Ramadan. The committee was established during Ramadan last year and received its first banquet from Dasman Palace, which was donated by HH the Amir which was enough to suffice 60 to 70 families daily throughout the Holy Month.

He said that the committee received donated foods and clothing from private companies and families, such as cereal, sugar, ghee, fish, meat and others. The committee provided needy families with supply rations, with which family breadwinners could come and collect uncooked food from the committee headquarters.

Re-distributed

Food surplus collected from functions held at hotels, communal halls or wedding receptions are picked up by special vans, while donors brought these donations using their own cars. These commodities will be redistributed to needy families, which include 306 Kuwaiti families, and 222 non-Kuwaiti families. The committee also sent foods to 3500 Muslim workers working with these companies, the official said.

He added that the committee appreciate any information about any needy family that will welcome the company's food catering services. He urged co-ops to send foods whose validity expires after three months to distribute among the needy instead of destroying them.

Giant

He said that the committee has giant fridges at its stores where meat and frozen foods are kept, adding that hot meals are also re-routed to families, pointing out that the committee also received Zakat and that donors or inquirers can reach the committee on Tel 2562450/2528201.

Kuwait may invest \$100m in Hungary

BUDAPEST, April 10, (Kuna): During a visit to Kuwait last week Hungary's Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi discussed the issue of a 100 million USD Kuwaiti investment fund for Hungary, the creation of which was first raised during a visit in Hungary in March by Kuwait Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah.

The Hungarian news agency (MTI) quoted economic sources as saying that it seems Kuwait would be ready to invest up to 100 million USD in Hungary, provided there are sufficiently interesting offers with appropriate returns.

The Hungarian Finance Minister promised his Kuwaiti hosts that the Hungarian delegation to attend the Hungarian economic days in Kuwait early May will bring along concrete business proposals.

It is also understood that plans for the Hungarian Afor Company and Kuwaiti oil companies to set up a joint venture in Hungary to build filling stations and the Kuwait Oil Company's plans to buy a stake in Hungarian oil and gas trust, are independent of the fund.

Bekesi held talks with Minister of Finance Jassim Muhammad Al Kharafi, and Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, as well as with private businessmen.

Last November Hungary and Kuwait signed an agreement on protection of investments, and they expect to reach an agreement on the elimination of double taxation by May.

Last year Hungary exported to Kuwait goods worth 40 million USD — 10 million USD more than in 1988. Hungarian imports, however, are limited mainly to the re-fuelling of Malev Aircraft in Kuwait and amount to only half a million dollars a year.

Soccer reception

KUWAIT, April 10, (Kuna): The Kuwait Soccer Federation is to host reception tonight to distribute HH the Amir's and HH the Crown Prince and premier's grants to Kuwaiti national teams, winner of the 10th Arab Soccer Tournament and the Friendship and Peace Games.

The federation's secretary Mohammed Othman told Kuna that the reception will take place at the federation's headquarters in Adaliya and that it will include the Kuwaiti soccer team that recently won the 10th Gulf Cup.

He added that the handball, basketball, and volleyball teams that won the Friendship and Peace games last October 30 to November 12 will also be honoured at the reception.

He elaborated that the Kazema Club basketball and Qadesiya Club volleyball teams will also be honoured for winning the GCC tournaments in these two games.

Othman underscored that the grants reflect both HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and premier's keenness on encouraging sports and youth.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MARRIAGE always demands the greatest understanding of the art of insincerity possible between two human beings — Vicki Baum, Austrian-American writer-playwright (1888-1960).

Taiwan Parliament Debates breed fist-fighting

TAIPEI, (Reuter): Take on a Taiwan senator in a political debate and you are just as likely to get a punch in the nose as a reasoned riposte.

Fist-fighting is "in" in Taiwan's Parliament, as are kicking, screaming, hair-pulling, spitting and table-smashing. Petulant lawmakers throw temper tantrums on the debating floor and the political stars of the day are those who know karate.

"Has parliament become a kung fu arena?" asked the China Times newspaper after reporting one recent violent incident.

Parliament's rough new image has shocked legislators in the ruling Nationalist Party, who, after the government's 1949 flight to Taiwan from communist armies in China, had grown accustomed to quietly rubber-stamping decisions by the late strongman ruler Chiang Kai-Shek and his son, Chiang Ching-kuo.

Belligerent
It has also alarmed government ministers, and at least one has resigned rather than face the "scolding and insults" of belligerent deputies.

For the change, thank Taiwan's first real opposition: the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Legalised in 1989, two years after martial law was lifted, the DPP uses sheer brawn to make up for the fact that it only holds 21 seats in the 279-seat legislature.

"Overturning taboos obviates the need to overturn the country," DPP secretary-general Chang Chun-Hong said in a recent radio interview.

The objects of the DPP's anger are the so-called "mainland deputies" — ageing Nationalist Party stalwarts frozen in office since they were elected in China before 1949.

The Nationalists still claim to be the rightful government not only of Taiwan but of all China. They say the old deputies' seats, a majority in all three branches of Parliament, cannot come up for election until China is unified under democracy.

The DPP says this is an excuse for one-party dictatorship.

The first punch in Taiwan's parliamentary brawls was thrown by DPP legislator Ju Gau-Jeng, the fiery son of a local policeman who holds a West German doctorate in philosophy.

Ju dubbed "Taiwan's Rambo" by the local press, established his image after taking his seat in 1986.

"I went into Parliament with one goal: to raise a ruckus," Ju said. "But always with a political end in mind."

Opponents
Screaming obscenities, hammering the podium and sometimes physically assaulting his opponents, Ju threw Parliament into chaos and pursued the elderly Nationalist deputies with the energy of a playground bully.

Under Ju's influence, Parliament now rings with a new type of political dialogue as deputies accuse each other of being "blood suckers," "rotten egg scum" and "political garbage."

A new group of DPP legislators, elected in December's limited parliamentary elections, has joined in tormenting the ageing deputies — many of whom are in their 80s and spend legislative sessions snoring if left undisturbed.

"We have waited so long for the Nationalists to carry out political reform... we've lost our patience," said Lu Hsiu-Yi, one of the new DPP representatives. "We have to use every tactic, every strategy to gain attention."

The "new kids" in parliament include some seasoned street-fighters, such as legislator Lin Chen-Chieh who gained fame as a master of kung fu.

Not to be outdone, Parliament's 69-year-old speaker, Lian Su-Yung, recently warned: "Some people practise taekwondo. I am versed in judo and fencing. And I am clear-minded."

The DPP's tactics have ranged from schoolboy-style pranks, such as bombarding Nationalist veterans with paper airplanes "to help them get back to China," to knocking the frail old men to the floor to prevent them from speaking.

The violence has spread this year as DPP representatives in various local government bodies follow the lead of the party's rambunctious legislators.

Members of the Taipei City Council have thrown punches to win control of the microphone. In the southern port city of Kaohsiung, somebody left a poisonous snake in the city council lounge.

At the National Assembly, which in March acted as an electoral college to give sole candidate President Lee Teng-hui a new six-year term, lawmakers screamed, punched, smashed windows and hurled ashtrays to make their point.

The DPP says fistfights are a response to what it calls the country's "irrational" political structure.

"The Nationalists give us so many excuses to act this way," Lu said. "If our entire parliament was elected by people in Taiwan, we'd have no more excuse."

The Nationalists, under pressure from their own younger representatives elected in Taiwan, have offered a hefty golden handshake to elderly legislators who retire voluntarily.

"Once the system becomes more reasonable, we won't see people trying to use unreasonable means to change it," said Lin Yu-Hsiang, one of the new breed of Nationalist deputies.

But the ruling party is worried the fist-fights are turning Parliament into a laughing stock and is debating tougher measures to ease the old deputies from office — one of the key reforms expected under Lee's new administration.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1564 — Peace of Troyes ends war between England and France.
- 1677 — William of Orange is defeated at Cassel, Germany, by Duke of Orleans.
- 1689 — William and Mary are crowned king and queen of England.
- 1713 — Peace of Utrecht between France, Britain, Holland, Savoy, Portugal and Prussia; Spain cedes Gibraltar to England.
- 1805 — Britain and Russia, by treaty of St Petersburg, agree to form a European league for liberation of German states, the third coalition against France.
- 1814 — Napoleon Bonaparte abdicates unconditionally as emperor of France and is banished to Elba by Treaty of Fontainebleau.
- 1843 — Britain separates Gambia from Sierra Leone as crown colony.
- 1894 — Uganda is declared a British protectorate.
- 1899 — Philippine islands are transferred from Spain to United States.
- 1919 — Referendum in New Zealand declares a gainst prohibition.
- 1951 — US president Harry S. Truman relieves Gen Douglas MacArthur of his command in Far East.
- 1953 — United Nations force and communists arrange for exchange of prisoners in Korea; Vietnamese insurgents renew offensive in Laos.
- 1961 — Nigeria imposes total boycott on South African trade.
- 1973 — Martin Bormann, Nazi official pursued throughout world, is officially declared dead and taken off West Germany's "most wanted" list.
- 1987 — China's National People's Congress ends annual session after endorsing premier Zhao Ziyang's centrist policies and removing nation's top security official.
- 1989 — Muslim rebels seal off Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

Relations remain on track

Superpower summit slated for May 30 - June 3

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): Warming superpower relations appear to be on track and moving forward despite tension over breakaway Lithuania and a united Germany's military stance.

That was clear even though Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left town last week without a hoped-for nuclear arms agreement and with a hunt US warning to Moscow: don't use bullets to beat back Lithuanian independence.

But Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker had reason to smile after three days of talks. They scheduled a May 30-June 3 superpower summit and whittled away at differences over regional issues from Afghanistan to the Korean peninsula.

Improving

Private analysts said the announced meeting between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev showed both sides were eager to keep improving relations on track, barring any embarrassing political or military catastrophe.

"They know that in a world that is changing daily that keeping in close touch and adjusting to realities is not just important, but a must," said Barry Blechman, an expert on arms control and military affairs.

"The changes in Moscow, Eastern Europe and the Baltic will eventually bring more stability to the world," added analyst Jim Blackwell. "But this interim period is more unstable in many ways than the cold war was."

Perhaps Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said it best in an interview broadcast on the CNN television network on Saturday: "We are talking now. Before, we did not even talk."

In an interview with the Soviet communist daily Pravda, Gorbachev said the superpowers held the key to changes sweeping Europe. "This is a very responsible moment and the American President and I have much to think over together," he said.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that the United States last month secretly proposed a ban on land-based missiles with multiple warheads, but Gorbachev said the plan was too limited.

Complained

Citing administration sources, the newspaper said Gorbachev complained in a letter delivered to Bush by Shevardnadze that the proposal excluded sea-based ballistic missiles, which Moscow has long wanted to cut.

Baker and Shevardnadze voiced disappointment that little progress was made toward a planned strategic arms reduction treaty (Start), but they seemed closer to agreement on how to deal with the expected merger of West and East Germany.

The Soviet Union is worried about a possible threat from a united Germany and has insisted that it be kept out of NATO, the Western alliance. Moscow wants a united Germany to be neutral.

But Shevardnadze, in a generally conciliatory statement, said he expected Moscow and the West would work out a mutually acceptable compromise.



FIRST IN GLASNOST, FIRST IN PERESTROIKA, AND LAST IN THE HEARTS OF THE STALINISTS.

on the future Germany.

"We welcome ideas," he told reporters.

The superpowers agree in principle that East and West Germany, divided since the late 1940s when cold war hostilities hardened World War II occupation lines, should be reunited as an inevitable consequence of opened frontiers and democratic upheavals in Central Europe.

Shevardnadze also gave Bush and Baker assurances that dialogue, not weapons, is Moscow's weapon of choice in settling the crisis over Lithuania's March 11 independence declaration.

Bush said Washington was not trying to "dictate" Moscow's actions but that US Soviet goodwill was far too important to the world for a miscalculation in Lithuania to disrupt.

Sovereignty issue splits Latvian party

RIGA, Soviet Union, (Reuter): Latvians seeking independence from Moscow could face a rougher struggle than other Baltic peoples after an ethnic split in Latvia's Communist Party revealed the republic's deep social division.

Although the battle for independence from Moscow opened more slowly than in Lithuania and Estonia, the party split at the weekend between independence-seekers and a conservative majority made up mostly of Russians underlined the tension in Latvian society.

After pro-independence Latvians walked out of a Communist Party congress on Saturday, the conservative majority which remained showed what it thought of the move by voting in a hardliner, Alfreds Rubiks, as the new party chief.

Tough

He is expected to make the going quite tough on the pro-independence wing, possibly evicting them from offices and stopping the publication of their newspapers. One radical paper was banned from party presses even on the eve of the congress.

Rubiks is a Latvian but opposes independence. His election means he is going to have a real showdown, said Valdis Berzins, foreign editor of the banned newspaper, Riga Balsa.

"I am sure we will get our independence, but this

will make our task much more difficult," he said.

Due to massive immigration in the past 30 years, Latvia has become the most Russified of the Baltic republics, with Latvians comprising less than half the population in their own capital and 53 per cent in the republic as a whole.

Thirty-two per cent of the republic's population is Russian, while the remaining 15 per cent is divided among Byelorussians, Poles, Ukrainians, and Lithuanians.

One reason for the migration was heavy industrialisation after World War II. Another was that Riga, as the largest and most centrally located Baltic city, attracted more migrants than the capitals of Lithuania and Estonia.

Population

But pro-independence Latvians say Moscow deliberately swelled their population, which today stands at 2.5 million, by hundreds of thousands of non-Latvians to make its 1940 incorporation into the Soviet Union irreversible.

The Russians gained a two-thirds majority in the Latvian Communist Party, and Latvians who advanced in that organisation tended to adhere to the Kremlin line until the independence spirit began to grow recently.

On Saturday, most of the Latvians walked out of

the congress after the majority refused to break ties with Moscow. They declared they would found their own independent Communist Party next Saturday, as Lithuania and Estonia have already done.

The conservative majority then elected Rubiks, a former Riga mayor, as party chief and passed a resolution reaffirming its control over party property — indicating it intends to hold on to party printing presses and buildings.

The conservatives also passed a resolution supporting the pro-Moscow communists in Lithuania and Estonia, where they are a minority.

And in an indication that they plan to follow rigidly the Moscow line, they voted to wait until after the Soviet Communist Party holds a congress and approves a new programme this summer before passing a new programme of their own.

Many members of the Popular Front, a pro-independence organisation whose candidates won a majority in the Latvian Parliament in recent elections, ignored the communists' wrangling as a political sideshow.

But their newspapers could be the next to be banned from Riga printing presses controlled by the party. And as champions of independence they are destined for a head-on collision with the Rubik-led party when the Parliament meets next month.

Letters to the editor

Wrestling matches

SIR: I am a long time reader of Arab Times and appreciate your service towards the non-Kuwait residents in Kuwait regarding their difficulties and problems.

Now I again request you to please draw the attention of Kuwait TV Channel No 1 on an important issue — wrestling bouts shown on Fridays at 10:00 pm. I would be very glad if it could be switched to Thursdays instead at the same time.

If the bouts are shown on Thursdays, viewer who have to go to work on Saturdays can have sufficient rest on Fridays.

M. Abdel Mahid Qadisi

Positive contribution

SIR: In response to letters appearing in your columns, I wish to make a categorical denial of the absurd accusations targeted towards it and would like to clarify that I have nothing to do with the Pakistan Arts Circle (PAC) and does not provide moral or material support to PAC.

Wishing not to be involved in such debating and demeaning kind of exchange, we welcome our critics and feel that although we detest what has been written about our founding members personally, we would give and read all help to them to continue to write — even to the extent that they may use our own publications (Approb News) and directly address their grievances to us. We need the scalpel of a surgeon to restore vigour, not the axe of a butcher or a dagger of a bandit to destroy.

French philosopher, Voltaire, in a letter to Jean d'Alembert said, "Quel que vous fassiez, écrasez l'infamie" ("Whatever you do, crush this infamy"). We don't think that we would like this controversy to be crushed. The embryonic stage which Approb is going through deserves such extensive tests and critical appraisals. Although doubt is not a pleasant condition, but to counter individual opinion by stooping to the same level as that of the critic is not healthy and does not serve the purpose or contribute to the goals and objectives of Approb.

Opinions

We think that free flow of ideas and opinions is healthy for the strength of the organisation and we

would like to set an example amongst the community that every type of accusation has also positive results once the litmus test reveals that the allegations are baseless.

The close examination of an idea is spanned over a certain period. Quick decisions and opinions do not succeed in making an impact. It is the quality of counter response which adds a certain angle to the logic. To maintain an educated and academic posture is the core of Approb mentality. We expect our critics to be more generous and try to read at least what Approb is all about. Once they have basic knowledge of the aims and objectives of Approb, we are sure that they will judge us without any element of malice and bias.

The professional calibre of Approb activities can only be improved if our critic friends send us their concrete proposals in a form that can be incorporated. Public media is not the right forum to bring constructive changes because the psyche impact of such negative dis-information campaign creates a question mark on the sincerity of the critic, if there is any, and the accused gets bogged down in defence of allegations and counter allegations with no purpose being served.

Judges

Approb believes that outsiders can be better judges of activities than the insiders and, therefore, welcome proposals aimed at improving our skills. These changes through participation of all would yield into better results in future if the purpose is to improve, if otherwise, then also we pray that opinions be more refined instead of crude because, being in a foreign land, crudeness and vulgarity does not leave a very good taste of our country's posture vis-a-vis other expatriate nationalities in this country.

Approb believes that although the most doubtful of accusations leave a stain behind, it is also aware of the fact that when someone points a finger at others, three of his fingers point at himself. We hope that our friends and foes admit that if a certain idea is to be known by the adverse response it generates, then we are delighted that at least we have been able to initiate a group of educated people who have decided to become active in the affairs of our community and this input from educated class will certainly unmask the shrouds of illiteracy and incompetence part and parcel of our daily life.

In the end, Approb would like to suggest that the way in which ideas are presented reflects the character of the human mind. We wish that the ideas of our critics may be formed on realities which will be representative of a

solid mind instead of inventing imaginary relationships having no real basis. Let us make an effort to free ourselves from dogmas and prejudices; the missing link of tolerance and accommodation based on respect for each other should become the foundation of our mutual conduct. This will help in making Pakistan a stronger and better country.

Approb Executive Board, Salimiyah.

Goan society

SIR: In view of some unwelcome letters appearing in your past few issues, concerning the Goan Welfare Society, the society wishes to clarify to all its members and the Goan community that it is the declared policy of the co-ordination and the managing committees not to send any rejoinders to any letters appearing in the press now or in the future.

Members are, however, invited to bring their grievances, if any, directly to the chairman of the co-ordination committee. They also have the right to raise issues at the meetings either through founder members or the village representatives. Vomiting venom in the public serves neither the society nor the Goan community.

The chairman takes this opportunity to assure that the co-ordination committee will look into every valid grievance, brought to its attention, in accordance with the well defined objectives and guidelines of the society. Let us not forget that the welfare of any community can only be secured through an unbiased, unprejudiced, co-ordinated process of co-operation and understanding among the members of the community.

A.J. Carvalho, Chairman, Goan Welfare Society, Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

An Buchwald

US heroes tend to forget

IT used to be that this nation's heroes said things like, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country," or "We have just begun to fight," or "Give me liberty or give me death," or "Remember the Maine."

Nowadays all our heroes can come up with is, "I don't remember."

Here, purportedly, are the video outtakes of the recent deposition of Ronald Reagan, which were given to the Admiral Poindexter trial.

Mr. President, could you please tell us exactly what you knew and when you knew it with regard to the Iran-Contra affair?

"I — I — I don't remember knowing anything about the Iran-Contra thing — this is the first I've heard of it."

"Well, let me try your memory on something else. Do you recall working for Warner Brothers as an actor before you went into politics?"

Came
"Of course. I came from Radio Station WHO in Des Moines, where I was a sportscaster, and I covered the Northwestern football games. North-western beat Michigan 24 to 12 when Myron Hoff-ster fumbled on the three-yard line. After that, I went to Southern California with the Chicago Cubs for spring training and did a screen test for Bill Melkdejohn at Warner Brothers. Luckily, I was hired because the cab fare came to \$10.33."

"Okay, Mr. President, can we get back to the illegal sale of arms to Iran and the laundering of money for the Nicaraguan rebels?"

"That was a long time ago. I wouldn't know anything about that. A President can't remember everything he did."

"But you do recall Knute Rockne."

"It was my favourite movie. I remember going to the commissary one day with Pat O'Brien. It was 1:20 pm and Pat had a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich on toasted rye and a glass of buttermilk, and I had a cream cheese and smoked salmon on punger-mickel, with a bag of potato chips and a beer. We sat at this back table against the wall that had a picture of Benj. Davis and Humayun Bogart. She was in a domino print dress and he wore a striped suit with tie. Pat said to me, 'Don't you love the movie business?'"

"Mr. President, did you know that Li Col North was going to lie to Congress?"

Know
"How could I know that when I didn't know anything. North, South, East, West — when you've seen one National Security aide you've seen them all."

"Then you maintain that you don't know who Col North was?"

"I can't recall the gentleman. I tried not to remember names when I was in the White House."

"Can you remember 'Bedtime for Bonzo'?"

"Who can forget 'Bedtime for Bonzo'? I didn't like the chimp very much because he used to bite me on the knuckles, and he tried to steal the picture from me. He smelled a lot and only ate green bananas which, in those days, cost 3 cents each. I used to buy them for him at the Fairfax Farmers Market — bananas were always in Row D, Aisle 6."

"You seem to have a good memory, Mr. President, except for the Iran-Contra Affair."

"I'm working my brain to help you, but it's all blank. I'm sure Iran had something to do with something, but I don't know what."

"Maybe you lost your memory when you were informed that you had violated the law."

"Right. That's why I'm calling my new book 'Where Is the Rest of Me?'"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Violence derails S. African talks

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuter): One of the first pictures of Nelson Mandela after he was freed from 27 years' imprisonment showed him smiling at the side of South African President F.W. de Klerk.

Two months and 400 deaths later, Mandela met De Klerk last Friday to rescue talks derailed by violence. He refused to appear before journalists with the white leader, avoiding another side-by-side photograph.

It was a measure of how much things have changed in South Africa since the heady days of February when De Klerk freed Mandela, figurehead of the black liberation movement, and legalised his African National Congress (ANC) and other left wing opposition groups.

Dramatic

The dramatic reforms created a mood of optimism and goodwill between black and white, epitomised by the two leaders beaming side-by-side. But it quickly crashed in an explosion of violence.

The ANC called off preliminary talks with the government after police fired on black demonstrators in the Transvaal township of Sebokeng.

Faction-fighting in black areas, particularly in Natal where ANC supporters are locked in open warfare with the conservative Inkatha Movement of chief Mangosuthu Buthe, had some hardline whites reaching for their guns to prepare to defend their homes and businesses.

More than 400 people were killed and much wishful thinking shattered by the time Mandela and De Klerk got negotiations back on track last Friday and set May 2-4 as a new date for talks. A sense of sober realism settled in about the rocky road to a new South Africa.

One reality now confirmed is that this country is nowhere near ready for a negotiated settlement — or a non-racial democracy, the liberal weekly Mail said in an editorial.

But the newspaper and political analysts said the talks were a necessary step. De Klerk's white National Party, which has ruled through its race law instrument apartheid for 40 years, and the ANC, its main black foe — had little choice but to forge ahead with talks.

De Klerk had moved far enough to make a return to white repression costly and unlikely, while the ANC had all but given up hope of overthrowing whites by force, the analysts said.

Friday's meeting, the first official encounter between government and ANC, was quite a small step. The two sides decided merely to go ahead with preliminary discussions on how to set up proper white-black power sharing negotiations.

Violence persists in the townships, although at a slightly lower level. And there is a constant danger of more incidents like Sebokeng as the deeply conservative white police, more used to whipping and shooting blacks than watching them peacefully exercise their right of political protest, meet more demonstrators demanding faster change.

The Johannesburg-based Human Rights Commission reports more than 600 blacks detained without trial as the government clamps down on unrest — the highest figure in a year.

Experts predict a turbulent on-again-off-again pattern will become familiar in the negotiating process as the government and the ANC and smaller faction jockey for position.

The apparent crumbling of South Africa's black homelands, spawned by apartheid and recognised as independent entities by only their Pretoria creators, appears to have helped the ANC.

Two coups in a month, the latest in Venda on Thursday, replaced pro-Pretoria rulers with ones anxious to join in the broader black struggle.

JAN 1990

Peres set to become next prime minister

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10. (Reuters) Shimon Peres, days after being written off as a no-hoper with a history of failure, looked set today to become Israel's next prime minister.

The reversal of the Labour Party leader's fortunes from almost certain political oblivion to his country's top job revived hopes for historic peace talks with Palestinians.

A few days ago, any attempt to open Israeli-Palestinian negotiations appeared to be months, or even years, away.

But Israel's political landscape was

transformed when Peres, 66, who had sought fruitlessly for weeks to form a government, managed to recruit a disgruntled follower of acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It was the only vote his party needed to gain a majority in parliament. While members of Shamir's rightist Likud Party still hoped to block him, then, support among small factions appeared to shift quickly in his favour.

When the 120 members of the Knesset vote on Wednesday, Peres may find he has become prime minister by much

more than the 61-59 margin provided by the defector from Shamir.

"From the moment Shamir said 'no' to peace and dallied over an answer to Baker, he determined his fate," said the centrist Hadashot newspaper. "This country wants a stable government that not only talks about peace, but works to further it."

Peres will still not find it easy to realise his goal of ending the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and negotiating a lasting peace with the 1.75 million Arabs living there.

Israelis are deeply divided over the ultimate decision which has to be made — whether Israel is willing to withdraw from occupied land in exchange for peace.

The arguments which stalled progress towards peace, ending in the fall of Shamir's government a month ago when he refused to start negotiations, are still valid. And problems remain over the question of who would represent the Palestinians.

If Peres allows Palestinians from Arab east Jerusalem to take part in talks, he

would be accused of undermining Israel's control of the city it has proclaimed as its capital.

If he allows a role for Palestinians exiled by Israeli authorities, he would be accused of breaking Israel's ban on contacts with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Groups coalescing around the Labour leader's unexpected majority range from members of the far left, which propose a Palestinian state, to the national religious party, which is determined to see Jews settled in occupied land.

Peres hopeful of Soviet ties

Cairo talks soon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10. (Agencies): Labour Party leader Shimon Peres predicted yesterday that the Palestinian uprising would wane once a Labour-led government starts a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

In Passover holiday interviews with two Hebrew dailies, Peres described the conflict with the Palestinians as Israel's "biggest burden," and pledged he would give the issue top priority.

Peres also predicted a peace process would prompt the Soviet Union to upgrade ties and allow direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights to expedite Jewish immigration.

Peres told the socialist Al Hamishmar daily that once his government is installed Israel would "give a positive answer" to proposals by US Secretary of State James Baker for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo.

Peres' support for Baker's ideas triggered a crisis that toppled the Labour-Likud coalition government March 15, when Parliament voted no confidence in Shamir. The crisis ensued after Shamir failed to agree to Baker's proposals.

"Never before have we faced such tremendous political opportunities," Peres told the mass-circulation Yediot Ahronot.

"I can already foresee the fruits of opening peace negotiations," he added. "Relations will be renewed with the Soviet Union... in a matter of weeks."

The Kremlin broke ties with Israel during the 1967 Middle East war. The two established low-level consular relations in 1987.

"I estimate that the intifada (uprising) will also wane and that millions of shekels in the state budget can be diverted to constructive tasks," Peres said.

The uprising has cost Israel nearly one billion dollars to add military costs and low tourist revenue.

"I want to solve the problem of the residents of (these) territories. It is our main burden," Peres told Al Hamishmar. "The whole world is moving toward elections, why not for the Palestinians?"

Peres indicated he planned no change in Israel's policy of refusing to speak to the PLO but appeared to leave room for some indirect PLO involvement in the negotiations.

"There is a Palestinian side for negotiations. I don't understand why we should go beyond that," Peres told Al Hamishmar.

"If the PLO means opinions, I don't rule out any opinions. If the PLO means violence, then I reject violence. I cannot tell the Palestinians what to do or think."

● Finnish authorities have begun to issue transit visas to Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel, opening up another departure point in Europe for tens of thousands of would-be immigrants, the World Jewish Congress said.

The WJC spokesman said that the Finnish consulate in Leningrad, the site of the second-largest Jewish population in the Soviet Union, had so far issued about 100 transit visas on the understanding that Jews who travel to Israel via Finland will not settle in the occupied territories.

● Two leading American columnists said Secretary of State James Baker is still biding strongly to seeking acceptance of two major conditions from Israel before he approves a \$400 million bounting loan for Soviet Jewish emigrants going to Israel. ● Hundreds of Soviet Jewish, the last group to pass through Italy to the United States, celebrated a Passover dinner in an atmosphere of joy and expectation.

The approximately 7,800 Soviet Jews staying in the Lapidopol area near Rome are all to be resettled in the United States or other countries by late May.

US senators tour Mideast in search for peace

Assad urged to play vital role

DAMASCUS, April 10. (Agencies): A high-powered US senate team urged Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to play a leading role in the search for Middle East peace, a member of the American delegation said.

The Syrian President, who has been reluctant to enter talks with Israel, told the senators he remained convinced that only an international solution under UN auspices would succeed.

Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum told a news conference in Damascus following three hours of talks with Assad that it was essential that any peace discussions should take place without preconditions.

"Some of us had indicated that we felt he (Assad) could be an effective spokesperson if he indicated a willingness to go to the peace table without preconditions."

"No single individual could have more impact in bringing about peace in the Middle East," said Metzenbaum, the only Democrat in the six-man team led by Republican minority leader Robert Dole.

The senators' talks in Damascus came close on the heels of a visit to Syria by former US President Jimmy Carter, who reported that Assad said he was prepared for unprecedented direct peace talks with Israel once negotiations start under UN sponsorship.

They took on added significance with the prospect of Israel's Labour Party leader Shimon Peres likely to form a government committed to peace talks with Palestinians.

Dole said Assad told the senators that Syria opposed partial solutions to the Middle East question and considered all parties should be involved.

The PLO supports a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli question but has shown willingness to enter direct talks with Israel although it considers an international peace conference is vital.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said any solution should lead to an international peace conference and an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

One of the past stumbling blocks has been Israel's refusal to negotiate on the future of Syria's Golan heights, which it has annexed since it was first occupied in 1967.

Syria has long insisted that the Golan must be on the agenda of any peace talks but Carter said after visiting Damascus that he felt Assad would accept a demilitarisation of the Golan heights.

The six-member US delegation arrived in Cairo late yesterday on the second leg of their Middle East tour carrying a message from President George Bush to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"I have a message from President Bush to President Mubarak," Dole told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport from Damascus.

He declined further comment. Dole is expected to deliver Bush's message during talks with Mubarak.

The delegation is also due to hold talks in Jordan and Israel after leaving Cairo tomorrow.

A senior Egyptian official called yesterday for a meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and US foreign ministers to pave the way for a broader Middle East settlement to include other Arab states.



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (right) meets with US Senator Robert Dole in Damascus yesterday.

Move to cut size of Palestinian House

AMMAN, April 10. (AP): Officials yesterday proposed trimming the size of a Palestinian parliament and said the Islamic Hamas movement and a longstanding dissident faction might join the body.

Members of the nine Palestine Liberation Organisation factions as well as independent figures made the recommendation after three days of talks aimed at convening a meeting this year of the Palestine National Council.

The national council functions as the Parliament for the Palestinian state it declared two years ago and it sets policy for the PLO. The national council speaker, Sheikh Abdul-Hamid Al Sayeh, told the Associated Press the number of seats would be reduced to 400 from 452.

The cuts would come among representatives of Palestinian refugees living outside Israeli-held territory. Those in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would retain their 186 seats.

The recommendation will go before the cabinet-like, 22-man Executive Committee of the PLO. Sayeh said the nine factions would hold the same proportion of seats as they do now, with the Fatah group led by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat holding the largest share.

Sayeh said the fundamentalist Hamas movement, Arabic for zeal, and the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command "are very much interested in joining the new council."

The 3-year-old Hamas has widespread support in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, where it has sometimes vied with the PLO for leadership of the 29-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation. Hamas demanded that the committee "allocate its representatives at least 200 seats as a precondition to join the council," Sayeh said.

HE said Hamas also expressed "willingness to co-operate with all factions within the PLO against Israel despite their differing ideologies."

"There are some positive remarks in Hamas' statement," Sayeh said. "But we cannot accept all its requests since they are calling for a half of the current political efforts which they considered to be concessions."

Najib was target of surprise attack

ISLAMABAD, April 10. (Reuters): An Afghan rebel leader whose group "claims" responsibility for a surprise attack last week at a mass surrender ceremony said that President Najibullah had been the main target for the rebel action.

But Najibullah failed to show up as expected at the ceremony attended by more than 10,000 people in the western province of Herat, rebel commander Abdul Wahid Mukhlis told a news conference in Islamabad.

Mukhlis gave no reasons for Najibullah's failure to appear, but he said Deputy State Security Minister Lieutenant-General Jalal Razmandad and Major-General Yaqub Khan were among the 130 people killed.

Mukhlis said he was a Herat unit commander of the Jamiat-Islami which says it planned the attack by five rebels smuggled into the ceremony.

Other rebel groups have also claimed responsibility for the attack on what was designed as a showpiece of Soviet-backed Najibullah's "national reconciliation" policy under which he has persuaded many rebels to lay down their arms.

Earlier reports from witnesses said 20 people were killed and more than 50 wounded in the 15-minute battle that began when rebels opened fire at Herat Governor Fazle Haq Khalilqayar embraced a rebel commander.

Khalilqayar, a key figure in Najibullah's efforts to make peace with local commanders, was critically wounded.

Mukhlis said two of the rebel attackers were killed. All had been taken to the ceremony by rebel leader Haji Malang who had earlier split with the rebels but now wanted to make peace with them again.

He said Malang was killed in the incident, probably by government firing.

Najibullah Lafrate, information minister of the rebel government based, told the news conference that similar surrender ceremonies organised by the Kabul government were a sham.

12 get death sentence for drug smuggling

CAIRO, April 10. (Agencies): A Cairo court sentenced to death in absentia a Turk dubbed by Egyptian police "the most dangerous drug smuggler in the world."

The Turk, Badie Ali Ghoral, was one of 12 drug traffickers sentenced to death for smuggling 10 tonnes of drugs into Egypt.

The court sent its verdict to the mufti, the country's top Muslim theologian, for endorsement. The mufti rarely overturns court decisions.

The drug traffickers, five Egyptian nationals, six Sudanese and one Turkish citizen, had been convicted of smuggling 10 tonnes of hashish and opium through the Red Sea to Egypt's eastern desert area on the common border between Sudan and Egypt. The dope was later shipped by cars to inside the country.

Reading out the verdict, the court stressed that it was high time to act firmly against criminal gangs that attempt to poison Egypt's youth through narcotics.

ANKARA, April 10. (Agencies): Turkey introduced measures yesterday, aimed at curbing a separatist Kurdish insurgency but refrained from tougher military action.

The measures, including deportation of alleged troublemakers from the rugged southeast bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria, were announced after a cabinet meeting chaired by President Turgut Ozal.

They followed the most violent start to any year since the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched its independence campaign in 1984.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in the insurgency, 637 of them in the past 12 months. Thirty-one people, most of them guerrillas, have been reported killed so far this month.

Twenty-one guerrillas were killed yesterday after a two-day clash with security forces, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said. The agency said earlier that 29 had died.

Eleven provinces hardest hit by the insurgency have been under emergency rule since 1987.

Most of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds — about one in five of the country's total population — live in the southeast.



Walid Khalid (right), spokesman for the radical Palestinian Fa'iah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal, Belgian director-general for political affairs Jan Hollens Loocke (centre) and Belgian Charge d'Affaires to Lebanon Jan Kemps (left) during a news conference in Mer Elias refugee camp in west Beirut to discuss the release of four Belgian hostages. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bulgaria to restore Israel ties

TUNIS, April 10. (Reuters): Bulgaria has told the Arab League it intends to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, the Bulgarian ambassador in Tunis announced yesterday.

Christo Yordanov Markov made the statement after meeting League Secretary-General Chedli Khlifi.

He told reporters the move would "in no way change the relations and friendship between Bulgaria and the Palestinian people... On the contrary, this will help the Palestinian cause."

Markov said Bulgaria would restore relations with the Jewish state "shortly." A senior Israeli official told Reuters in occupied Jerusalem on March 27 that chances were good for Israel and Bulgaria to restore diplomatic relations within a month. He said negotiations had been under way for some time.

Bulgaria, along with all other Eastern European countries except Romania, severed ties with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

A restoration of ties with Bulgaria would be the latest success in an Israeli diplomatic offensive coinciding with the democratic transformation of Eastern Europe.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Israel blocking Mideast peace: Syria

accused Israel today of blocking Middle East peace, and said Damascus was building its strength to defend its rights and those of other Arab countries.

The official daily Al Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Party, said Syria supported a just and comprehensive peace "but was not ready to abandon Syrian and Arab rights."

It said an international peace conference with all parties present was the best formula for achieving peace.

"Syria had always proved that as much as she supports a just and comprehensive peace she is not ready to abandon any of her legitimate rights or those of Arabs," (Reuters)

Cypriot President in Belgrade: Cypriot President George Vassiliou arrived in Belgrade last night on a three-day official visit to Yugoslavia, at invitation of Yugoslav President Vuk Draskovic.

Vassiliou was received at the airport by his Yugoslav counterpart and other senior officials.

The two presidents are expected to discuss at their talks political relations and economic cooperation between the two countries and ways of boosting the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in settling international and regional crises. (Kuna)

Raid on Lebanese villages: Israeli-backed militiamen advanced into two Shiite Muslim-held villages in south Lebanon yesterday and arrested three people, security sources said.

They said the armed force of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) pushed into the villages of Majdal Zoun and Haadatha on the edge of Israel's self-declared security zone. (Reuters)

Fundamentalists shut restaurant: Algerian Islamic fundamentalists shut a restaurant yesterday for serving foreign tourists alcoholic drinks during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, saying it offended God.

The Algerian news agency APS said about 50 fundamentalists gathered in front of a port-side fish restaurant after Friday prayers while a group of foreign tourists had lunch.

"A restaurant open in the middle of Ramadan serving alcoholic drinks in front of a mosque is an offence to God," the agency quoted one of the fundamentalists as saying.

APS said the fundamentalists refrained from

violence but had told the owners they were giving a first warning. (Reuters)

Egypt, Pakistan talks: The official Pakistani Egyptian round of talks centred yesterday on Middle East developments and the Kashmir issue, according to an Egyptian diplomatic source.

The source told reporters, following the meeting between visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Egyptian opposite number Dr. Esma' Abdel Meguid, that the discussions tackled Mideast peace process in the light of Egypt's efforts in this regard. (Kuna)

Greek-Cypriot released after 15 days: A Greek-Cypriot, one of five who staged protest forays into Turkish-Cypriot north Cyprus, was released yesterday after 15 days in prison.

Police said Paris Christoforou, 17, was handed over to UN peacekeepers in north Cyprus who escorted him back over the dividing line in Nicosia. They said he had a medical checkup by a UN doctor.

A Turkish-Cypriot court on March 26 sentenced Christoforou to 15 days in jail for entering the breakaway north in protest at the division of the island. (Reuters)

Bush pledge to Lebanon: President George Bush reaffirmed yesterday his full support for the Taif agreement and pledged to continue working for Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, and independence.

Bush made his pledge during a special White House ceremony when he received the credentials papers of the new Lebanese ambassador to the United States, Nassib Lahoud.

Lahoud, a well-known Lebanese businessman, replaces the former controversial Lebanese ambassador Abdullah Bouhabib, who was forced to quit in January after a legal wrangle with the State Department. (Kuna)

Kaifu to visit Mideast: Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will visit four Middle East countries in August, officials confirmed today.

Kaifu's itinerary, which is yet to be finalised, may include Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, according to the officials.

They said Kaifu hopes to promote friendly ties with Middle East countries, the main source of oil supplies to Japan. (Kuna)

EVENTS



Chaine des Rotisseurs inauguration

The Kuwait chapter of the Chaine des Rotisseurs held an inauguration and gala dinner recently at the Holiday Inn. 14 members were inducted into the Chaine des Rotisseurs. The guest of honour was the Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait and Mrs. Mohammad H. Kaabachi. The pictures show: New members and committee members.

Indian Video Roundup

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THAT we are destined to suffer Hindi movies in the course of duty is perhaps the result of our karma or the lack of it. Well! This is how one feels after sitting through director Swaroop Kumar's Karmayudh.

Inayat Akhtar's story fools no one but the filmmaker and the artists taking part in the violent charade for the umpteenth time.

It opens with two police officers discussing Ashwini Kumar's success and how he got rid of some members of a gang when Puri walks through the door, bouquet in hand, offering his congratulations. Puri (Amrish Puri) marks the start of violence.

And needless to say, this state of affairs last till Puri meets his nemesis.

As of Puri's stereotyping was insufficient, Satish Bhatnagar's screenplay resorts to creating more clones like the gangster's moll (Asha Sachdev); night club dancer Rosie (Anita Raj), a sister who is destined to meet a tragic end and a mother who waits in the wings to float in air, above a funeral pyre, for the climax sequence. All the characters are linked to the cause of destroying evil, by a quirk of fate or karma or the director's contrivance. One is unable to decide which is right.

The destruction of evil and the triumph of good has been theme of scores of films. This theme is ingrained in the psyche of entertainers, partly due to mythologicals and folklore. Fine. But it does not work in

Karmayudh. All we ever see on the screen, at an interval of an average of 10 to 15 minutes, is hero Mithun in a brawl — on the beach, on a street, in a cafe, in nightclub and every conceivable place — as Bappi Lahiri's jarring score plays in the background.

The ratio of dialogue to brawls is 1:10, punctuated by song and dance routines, followed by tearful scenes making up the sum total of the so-called Karmayudh.

Haleast

This Suresh Oberoi-Moon Sen movie follows the trail of Karmayudh, but differs in heading the vendetta. This is set in north Indian jungles where weapon smugglers set up operations. Every forest officer who comes to a town known as Ajeet

Nagar is knocked down by an unknown assailant. The village philanthropist Prabhudayal (Raza Murad) believes in opposing every opposition — be it man or animal. At the first show of defiance, if a man doesn't stop barking, he is shot dead. A man asks too many questions, he meets a similar fate, followed by a celebration in the gypsy camp.

Karavir (Suresh Oberoi), who is invited to Prabhudayal for his education, comes to Ajeet Nagar to investigate the death of forest officers before him. Will he live or die? The answer is child's play in this rather predictable tale.

The above movies are by courtesy of Arab Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 471-2000. Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Tel: 2459521.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World animals: Cultural programme
- 2.00 Kabool adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 16)
- 3.10 Human health: Cultural programme (part 16)
- 3.35 Qabdhay Bahloul: Arabic serial (Final Part)
- 4.20 Rasal Al Ekha: Local programme
- 4.40 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 16)
- 5.30 Hadeeth Deebi: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Merwali Al Sharawi
- 6.20 Mazinger journey: Cartoon serial (part 16)
- 6.45 Baad Al Eftar:

Religious programme

- 7.00 Madanat Al Ajayeb
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 8.00 Maa Al Talaba: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education School Activity Department
- 9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 16)
- 9.45 Sawalef min Al Madhi: Local programme
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The family: Local serial (Final Part)
- 11.45 3 x 3: Local variety programme (part 16)
- 12.15 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (part 16)
- 1.15 Al Shaghala: Arabic feature, starring Sana Jameel, Omar Al Harezi, Mohammed Redha, Khayriya Ahmad
- 3.00 News Summary
- 3.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.20 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Mickey and Donald: A cartoon series for children



KTV 2, 9:30 — Welcome Ramadan

- 8.30 Animals of Africa: "Competition" for drinking time. Animals, birds and insects rush to water sources in Africa for drinking or hunting purposes... a look at drought effects in the African deserts...
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
- 9.45 The Science Edition
- 10.15 Booker: All That You Got To Do... Do it. Booker helps his boss to find her daughter and look for her missing husband. While Booker finds out that others are looking for the same man... Why?
- 11.45 Cine Club: Presented by: Farouk Al-Azziz. The Treasure of The Sierra Madre
- 1.15 News in Brief
- 1.30 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
Furniture of Kuwait, pre-oil 1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery; daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.
From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

Hobby Centre
An exhibition of students work in jewellery, watercolour painting & pottery in the studio at the Tareq Rajab Museum on:
Wednesday, April 11th from 8 pm - 10.30 pm.
Thursday, April 12th from 9.30 am - 12 noon; 8 pm - 10.30 pm.
Friday, April 13th from 8 pm - 10.30 pm.

Kaleidoscope

A colourful spectrum of British and American 20th century music — including: Britten, Gershwin, Elgar, Copeland and Sandberg. Frances Coad - voice; Trevor Platt - piano. On April 18th at the British embassy. For more information Tel: 5318060 ext 19, 8 am - 1 pm.

Bite 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

SOCIAL

British Council
The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloco Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Cine Club

Sunday, 15/4: "The Last Emperor." Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.
Tuesday, 17/4: "Sunshine." Dir. by Stanley Kubrick. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Wednesday, 18/4: "Czech Cartoon Muttet and Cley Show." Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium.

Sunday, 22/4: "Indiana Jones and the Last Adventure." Dir. by Steven Spielberg. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 24/4: "Once Upon A Time In America." Dir. by Sergio Leone. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Note: Screening at 9.30 pm.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in Urdu, Telugu or English languages to not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and desirable henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

British Council

COAST to Coast. Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 6.00 pm. A genuinely funny comedy, this is one of the most talked about and fondly remembered British films of 1987, achieving the highest rating ever for a BBC feature.

Lenny Henry, arguably Britain's finest comedian, in his first film role as Ritchie Lee, is perfect. There is the added bonus of 18 classic Tania Motown hits skillfully deployed by director Sandy Johnson.

DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 5.30 pm.

The only problem with Dennis is that everything he does always ends in disaster for his long-suffering parents and neighbours. No wonder everyone calls him the Menace! Nine episodes that will have children hollering with laughter!

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents

The Dancer is the dance & dance is life"

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm. Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm. Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm. Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee). Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — 6 pm Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

Cosmos Summer Nite

From Kuwait Cosmos on 10th May 1990, at lawns of Hunting & Equestrian Club. (Pool-side) from 21.00 hrs unto dawn dancing to the beats of Hurricane Alley & Next of Kin. Highlights of the evening: Cosmos Summer Nite special, table surprise, novelty dance, ballroom dance competition.

Valuable gifts in store and not forgetting an exotic buffet of your choice. Please collect your invitations from undermentioned: Vincent Pinto, 4887140 or Dama D'Cruz, 5623621.

APPROB Eid dinner venue changed

THE venue of the Gala Eid Milan party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

Anglican services

PAUL'S Church, Ahmadi Anglican services: Maundy Thursday, 8 pm. The Last Supper.

Good Friday, 2 pm: The Cross of Christ, 7 pm: United Service Easter Day, 8.30 am: Holy Communion; 11.30 am: Lunchtime family service; 12.30 pm: Lunchtime communion; 6.30 pm: Easter festival, with the Ahmadi Music Group; 7.30 - 8 pm: Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Passion Week

THE English language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services: 12th April — Maundy Thursday — Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April — Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.

15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am.

Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata." All are welcome.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

LA PALMA: Opens at 6.00 pm for an elaborate Ifar buffet with traditional specialties of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each

group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Suhour until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

OUTSIDE CATERING

Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional Ifar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 2530000 ext 8008/8000.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Ifar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sohbur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Ifar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Ifar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazzia, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am.

LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejsis plays in the lobby diwaneya after Ifar until the end of Ramadan.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only K.D. 600 — including beverages. First two kids free per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can, for K.D. 2,000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices, plus month watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait:
Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem Street
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem Street
Hawalli & Nagra
Al Qatani Pharmacy
Beirut Street
Sahniya & Ramadhiya
Al Markaziya Pharmacy
Amr Bin Al Aas Street
Fahad Al Aas Street
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Ahmadi
Kheftan
Al Tasamoh Pharmacy
Ebn Screen Street
Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Daabai Al Khozi Street



Coca-Cola say goodbye

Coca-Cola Gulf hosted a farewell party for its Randrup who leaves Bahrain for England after one year as Regional Manager for the Gulf. Randrup has been replaced by Jim Harding who moved to Bahrain from Kuala Lumpur, where he was Country Manager for Malaysia and Singapore. Seen at his farewell reception from left to right: are Jim Harding, Randrup and Akram Mknas, President of Fortune-Promo Seven, the advertising and public relations agency for Coca-Cola Gulf.

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9th Prize

10th Prize

11th Prize

12th Prize

13th Prize

14th Prize

15th Prize

16th Prize

17th Prize

18th Prize

19th Prize

20th Prize

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

US crude prices take a sharp plunge

Decline attributed to the sell-off in futures market and a high Opec output

NEW YORK, April 10, (Reuters): Crude oil prices fell sharply yesterday, closing at their lowest level in eight months on signs of high production and rising inventories.

The selloff in the futures market accelerated when prices slipped beneath the \$19 a barrel mark, traders said. Crude oil contracts for May delivery settled at \$18.44 a barrel, down 71 cents.

Part of the decline was also attributed to a Middle East Economic Survey pegging March Opec output at more than 24 million barrels daily, industry sources said. Under its own rules, Opec is supposed to produce no

more than 22.1 million barrels daily.

The highest increase in March output, according to the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), came from Iran, where production increased to 3,150,000 barrels per day from 2,800,000 barrels per day in Feb and 2,500,000 barrels per day in Jan 1990.

MEES said this was the first time since Aug 1989 that Iran has been able to produce up to its full Opec quota, currently at 3,140,000 barrels per day, and oil analysts were waiting to see whether Tehran will be able to sustain that level in coming months.

"This market is ill with Opec produc-

tion at a nine-year high," said Peter Beutel, an analyst with Elders Futures Inc. "People are now wondering how long it's going to stay in the \$18 range," he said.

Analysts said West Texas Intermediate's failure to show even minimal humanity at bottom levels ranging between \$18.50 and \$19 a barrel added to traders' already overwhelmingly bearish sentiment.

Petrol prices also fell sharply with the May contract for unleaded ending sharply lower at 60.89 cents a gallon, down 1.22 cents. Heating oil was also down on the day, closing at 53.07 cents a gallon, off 0.64 cents.

Traders said crude oil supplies were piling up at Cushing, Oklahoma, the delivery point for crude traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange, as well as at the Louisiana offshore oil port, a major offloading site for foreign crudes. Storage also was tight at Midland in west Texas, they said.

Traders said the world-wide excess of crude oil had grown to such a degree that even bargain hunters were shying away from cheap cargoes.

"It's getting to the point that economic don't matter any more," said one US Gulf-based crude oil broker. "Traders are putting cargoes on the water and just hoping they will sell."

On the European spot market, Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent lost 21 cents to \$16.79 a barrel, a loss of \$1.51 on the week.

United Arab Emirates' Dubai light — the key Opec crude from the Middle East shipped mainly to the Far East — dropped 57 cents to \$14.28 a barrel, a drop of \$1.52 from a week ago.

On the Merc, heating oil for May delivery finished the day at 53.07 cents a gallon, down 0.64 cent on the day and 2.2 cents on the week.

Prompt delivery heating oil rose 0.65 cent on the New York harbour spot market to 59.1 cents a gallon.

A Saudi Arabian newspaper, alarmed by a sharp fall in world oil prices today warned Opec could face a new crisis with "evil consequences" if it continued flooding a saturated market.

"We could face another petroleum crisis with evil consequences as a result of flooding the market with huge volumes of crude to a world that has had enough of it," the daily Al Bilad said in an editorial carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, SPA.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and Opec's dominant member, has consistently denied it was over-producing.

Energy file

Centre to produce global oil report

VIENNA, April 10, (Agencies): The London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES) has announced that it will produce a bi-monthly "global oil report", with the first issue due by the middle of this year.

The centre set up by former Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said the report would be of special importance in providing analyses of medium and long-term strategies and policy trends, as well as changes in oil industry fundamentals while highlighting current issues and short-term market developments.

The report will consist of four chapters, two dealing with the significance and long-term impact of current events and government policies and two devoted to an analysis of market fundamentals and short-term issues.

Venezuela: The government said it had yet to reach a decision on widely rumoured gas hikes, while the head of the state oil monopoly said newspapers misquoted him when they reported gasoline would go up this month.

The government has not decided on the matter of gasoline prices... reports to the contrary are not based on facts," said Planning Vice Minister Pedro Rosas after a meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez.

The press reported over the weekend that gasoline, which is cheaper in Venezuela than in most other countries, could go up by as much as 40 per cent. The reports quoted PDVSA president Andres Sosa Pietri as saying that the hikes would be announced "during or after Easter," which is April 15, (AP).

Iran: Iran resumed exports of natural gas to the Soviet Union yesterday after a ten-year break, Tehran radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that according to agreements finalised Sunday, gas exports of 8 million cubic metres per day, or 3 billion cubic metres per year, started yesterday.

Natural gas from the Kangan refinery in Bushehr province and the Bid Boland refinery in Khuzestan, will be pumped to the Soviet Union via a 1,160 kilometre pipeline, the radio said.

It quoted Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance, Mohsen Nourkhahsh, who presided over the inaugural ceremony of the pipeline, as saying the gas exports will finance 19 important Soviet industrial and technical projects in Iran. (AP)

Pakistan: A new gas field has been discovered in Qadirpur in Pakistan's Sindh province on the left bank of the River Indus, according to Federal Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Jhangir Badar.

The minister said the discovery, situated over an area of 735 sq. km between Jacobabad and Sukkur districts, was expected to yield 14 million cu. ft. of good quality gas per day.

Badar added that the discovery had been made by Pakistani companies.

The field is being drilled under a joint venture between the state-owned Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC), the operator of the project, and Premier Exploration Pakistan, Burmah Oil and Pakistan Petroleum. (Opecna)

Malaysia: Oil companies in Malaysia, whose business in the retail sector is governed by the Automatic Price Mechanism (APM), want the government to increase the commission rates for petroleum products, pointing out these were last reviewed in 1983, according to a report yesterday.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hyundai, Soviet talks: South Korea's Hyundai group is considering pumping natural gas from the Soviet Union to South Korea through a pipeline to be built in the communist north, the company said Tuesday in Seoul.

Chung Ju-Yung, founder and honorary chairman of Hyundai, one of the country's largest conglomerates, left for Moscow Sunday to discuss the probability, along with other business, the company said. (AP)

Japanese videotape threaten Korean market: Japanese videotape makers, eyeing growing consumer demand, expect to grab a larger market share in the future and some Korean makers are worried, a news report said Tuesday.

Currently some 35,000 of the 400,000 tapes sold in South Korea are Japanese, about 9 per cent of the market. Planned expansion in advertising and marketing in magazines, on billboards and on television by Japanese companies is expected to increase their share, according to Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency. (AP)

Mazda, Hertz car rental venture: Mazda Motor Corporation Japan's fourth largest automaker, said Tuesday it has formed a joint car rental venture in Japan with Hertz Corp. of the United States, the world's largest automobile rental company.

The new Hertz Japan Ltd., capitalised at 500 million yen (\$3.16 million), will be fully integrated with Hertz' world-wide network comprising about 5,000 locations in more than 120 countries, Mazda said in a news release. (AP)

MCI to acquire telecom: The MCI communications corporation will acquire telecom USA Inc. for about \$1.25 billion in cash, the two companies announced Monday, in New York.

Both companies are major players in the long-distance telephone business, which is operated privately in the United States but regulated by the government. (Kuna)

Turkey selects Airbus A340: The European consortium Airbus Industrie said Monday that the Turkish flag carrier Turk Hava Yollari will acquire five Airbus A340-300 four-engine widebody aircraft and four options another five.

Terms of the contract with the Turkish Airlines were not disclosed. List price for the A340-300 is \$100 million "without engines," which normally represent 20 per cent of the plane's total cost. (UPI)

Exxon pleads innocent: Exxon Corp. and a subsidiary pleaded innocent Monday afternoon to five-count criminal indictments charging them with various federal crimes in the nation's worst oil spill.

Attorneys for Exxon and Exxon Shipping Co. entered the pleas in two separate arguments before US District Judge John D. Roberts. Each company has been charged with two felonies and three misdemeanours. (AP)

German joint venture: The Schering Chemical Company, one of West Germany's largest pharmaceutical concerns, is probing possible collaborations with ten East German state-run companies, a company spokesman said Monday.

Giuseppe Vita, a senior official at Schering told a news conference in West Berlin Monday that the company was seriously considering forming a joint venture with the East German Veb Fahlberg-Liste Company. (UPI)

Greyhound sues striking union: Greyhound Lines Inc. said Monday in Dallas, Texas it filed a \$30 million lawsuit causing its striking bus drivers' union of violating federal racketeering laws by promoting violence.

There have been more than 30 shootings at buses and Greyhound facilities since the strike began March 2, the most recent the shooting of a competing company's bus near Fort Worth on Sunday. No one was injured in that incident. (AP)

Cost of living hits 95.5 pc: The cost of living rose 95.5 per cent in March, the sharpest monthly increase since the government of President Carlos Menem took office July 8, the Economy Ministry announced Monday night in Buenos Aires.

Despite the March increase, officials predicted a much smaller increase for April and for the rest of the year as severe austerity measures, aimed at cutting government deficit spending and restructuring the economy, take effect. (AP)

Strike closes Italian banks: Italian banks were forced to close their doors on Monday as workers staged a 48-hour pay strike.

The employees, whose strike is expected to keep banks closed until Wednesday morning, are demanding pay rises of up to three per cent.

Some 6,000 hospital anaesthetists also stayed away from work on the first day of a three-day stoppage in support of a new contract drawn up by the government. (Reuters)

Strike halts Dutch railways: Rail traffic in the Netherlands came to a virtual standstill on Monday as several thousand train drivers and ticket collectors staged a 24-hour pay strike.

"Traffic has almost completely come to a halt. We're advising passengers not to try the trains today," railways spokesman Wim Binnendijk said, noting that only in the northern province of Friesland could service be maintained.

The already dense Dutch motorways were clogged with traffic in the morning rush hour as hundreds of thousands of commuters switched to cars to get to work.

Dutch railways carry about 650,000 passengers a day. The strike was called by the second-largest railway union, FSV, which represents 6,000 staff, in support of a four per cent across-the-board pay rise rejected by management. (Reuters)

Oil tanker explosion 2 dead: An oil tanker exploded late last month in the Celebes Sea north of the island of Sulawesi, killing two passengers and injuring four, the official Antara News Agency reported Monday in Jakarta.

The vessel Makto Jaya exploded in rough seas on March 30 while carrying 25 tonnes of oil from Buoi to nearby Toli Toli, about 1,750 kilometres (1,087 miles) northeast of Jakarta, the agency said.

The ship's captain and engineer were among the injuries according to the agency, which did not say how many people were aboard. The skipper was quoted as saying the explosion occurred unexpectedly as the ship was attempting to move to a safer area to get away from large waves. (AP)

Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market quiet

KUWAIT, April 10, (Reuters): The Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was quiet again, although there was some activity in short dates, dealers said.

Overnight dealt earlier at 7-1/2 per cent and was later being quoted at 7-1/2 7-3/4. Term next was quoted at 8-1/16 8-5/16 and spot next and one week at 8-1/2 8-3/4.

There was little activity seen in fixed dates, as the market awaited a treasury announcement on three month and six month bill options.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29391/401 to the dollar.

At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 5.0953 Swiss francs, against 5.0950 at the close of trading last evening, the Swiss-Kuwait Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.7643 (5.7593), the pound sterling 2.0824, Japanese yen 538.3080 (534.7172), and the US dollar 3.4055 (3.4069).

Dealers reported a quiet morning on the

Saudi riyal interbank deposit market.

In Paris, the US dollar was steady, at the opening of bank transactions today, trading at 5.6800 francs compared with 5.6795 at the fixing the previous day.

The pound sterling declined to 9.2800 francs from 9.3125, the Deutsche mark to 3.3555 from 3.3586, the Swiss franc to 3.7973 from 3.7955, the Belgian franc rose slightly to 16.2550 from 16.247, for 100 Belgian francs, and the Japanese yen dropped to 3.6070 from Gold was quoted at \$380.57 an ounce.

Concern at slow pace of Gatt talks

GENEVA, April 10, (AP): Negotiators at world trade talks warned yesterday that efforts to agree on market-opening moves are lagging in key areas, including farm products and textiles.

The concerns surfaced at a meeting under the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the forum for the current four-year round of trade liberalisation talks due to wind up in December.

India, Peru and Yugoslavia were among countries expressing concern at the slow pace of negotiations on textiles and clothing, a meeting source said. The talks are of particular interest to Third World exporters.

A Gatt summary on the state of the talks cited "general agreement" that existing exceptions to Gatt's free trade rules for textiles and clothing should be phased out starting July 31, 1991.

But the document suggested disagreement persists over how and to what degree rich countries should be able to protect themselves against cheap textile imports after the proposed deadline.

On agriculture, Australia charged Gatt delegates have "no clear perception of the way ahead" and recalled that the outline of an agreement should be finished by July, the source said.

Canada and the United States also voiced concern about the state of efforts to free world farm trade, one of the most difficult areas in the Gatt talks.

The United States and the European Economic Community remain at odds over farm policy, with Washington calling for greater cuts in export subsidies and tariffs than the EEC has been willing to accept.

Negotiators have pledged themselves to completing a framework accord by July on all areas under discussion in the Gatt round.

Yesterday's progress reports came at a meeting of a negotiating group on goods. The other main area in the talks is trade in services, such as banking and insurance.

The first summit meeting of the group of 15 (G-15) developing nations in Kuala Lumpur in June signals a "significant milestone" in the South's aim for an equitable global system which benefits all, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said yesterday.

Arab trade agencies meet

ABU DHABI, April 10, (Kuna): Representatives from Arab national trade agencies held here on Sunday their first meeting called for by the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP).

The meeting was set to discuss measures for establishing a financing system for inter-Arab trade through the newly established ATFP and ways of organising business transactions between the trade agencies and the \$500-million budget organisation.

ATFP's chairman of the board and executive director Dr. Osama Faqih said in an opening statement that the programme is hoped to contribute to Arab economic integration by encouraging inter-Arab export and import movement.

India seeks foreign investment

Singh promises more liberal climate

NEW DELHI, April 10, (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said yesterday his government would promote a more liberal climate for foreign investment and free industry from bureaucratic controls.

Addressing a world economic forum meeting on India, Singh said his country's foreign investment policy "is not implemented as smoothly and transparently as it should be. Procedures are dilatory and there are unnecessary delays."

"We recognise that foreign investment can make an important

contribution in our effort to modernise our industry, make it more competitive internationally, and give it marketing links in highly competitive world markets," he said.

In his first address to the business community since assuming office in December, Singh said the government was considering raising the ceiling on foreign equity from 40 per cent for high-technology and export-orientated ventures.

The government would also approve "on a near automatic basis" projects with less than 40 per cent foreign equity, he said.

Foreign investment in India, which edged up to \$188 million in 1989 from \$160 million the previous year, was still much smaller than the economy could absorb, mostly because of red tape, he said.

The United States, which last May branded India as an unfair trader under section 301 of its omnibus trade act, has long complained about India's investment climate.

Washington says India must negotiate trade complaints by a June 16 deadline or face sanctions. India has so far refused to do so.

Singh also said the government was trying to unshackle bureaucratic controls on industry and simplify industrial licensing.

"Our past experience shows these regulations do not achieve the objective for which they were introduced. Instead, they encourage delay and inefficiency and also become a source of corruption."

"Very often these controls have been used by vested interests to perpetuate monopoly and restrict competition."

He said the government's main economic priority was developing rural areas, where the vast majority of India's 820 million people live.

"There is a market of around 100 million consumers in India who have surplus purchasing power," the prime minister said.

Tokyo share prices decline

TOKYO, April 10, (AP): Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange dived today as the US dollar surged against the Japanese yen amid speculation that an agreement on market intervention by leading currency nations was falling apart.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average fell 73.25 points, or 2.54 per cent, ending the day at 29,624.68. Yesterday, the Nikkei index gained 1,119.15 points in its fourth largest single-day advance.

Volume on the first section was estimated at 550 million shares traded, down from 800 million yesterday. More than 800 issues fell, while 25 advanced and 80 remained unchanged.

Nomura Securities analyst Masahiro Umemori attributed the Nikkei's drop to the yen's downturn, which he said resulted from insufficient intervention overnight by central banks from the group of seven leading industrialised nations.

Bank of Japan governor Yasuhiro Mieno said after returning from a meeting of finance ministers of the G-7 nations in Paris last weekend that they had pledged to intervene in currency markets to support the falling yen.

The G-7 is comprised of Japan, Canada, the United States, Britain, France, Italy and West Germany. The dollar closed in Tokyo at 158.15 yen, unchanged from its opening but 1.70 yen higher than yesterday's close of 156.45 yen. The US currency ranged between 157.90 yen and 158.40 yen during the day.

US blue chip stocks closed slightly higher yesterday in light trading as a rebound on the Tokyo stock market provided support.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 4.95 points at 2,722.07, according to preliminary estimates. Losing issues outpaced gains by about 2-2 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Many Japanese stocks stayed on the sidelines with volume extremely light at 116 million shares.

The dollar held its own and even edged up slightly against the Japanese yen in New York dealings yesterday as world central banks intervened without apparent conviction after a weekend Group of Seven meeting.

Currency traders said the Federal Reserve sold dollars in New York to support the Japanese currency, acting on a mildly worded G-7 final statement pledging co-ordination in world currency markets. European central banks intervened too, but their concerted action was no budge.

Later-morning Fed intervention pushed the dollar down to a low of \$16.60 yen from the opening price of 15.92 yen, reaching its Asian and European trading, but the dollar later recovered. In late trading, the US currency was fetching 157.90 yen, up a bit from Friday's rate of 157.65 yen.

In London, the dollar opened mostly higher against major European currencies today. Gold was up.

The dollar opened higher in Frankfurt at 1.6930 marks against 1.6918 at yesterday's close, and also was higher in Zurich at 1.4975 Swiss francs against 1.4955, and in Brussels at 34.9850 Belgian francs against 34.94.

The pound opened lower at \$1.6324 compared to \$1.6395 at yesterday's close.

The dollar opened unchanged in Paris at 5.6795 French francs, but was lower in Milan at 1,342.50 lire against 1,348.90 at yesterday's close.

The dollar closed lower in Hong Kong at 7.7997 Hong Kong dollars against 7.7998.

Gold closed lower in Hong Kong at \$375.85 per ounce against \$378.55 per ounce.

In Zurich, gold opened higher at \$376.00 per ounce against \$375.50 per ounce at Friday's close, and also was higher in London at \$375.45 per ounce against \$375.25 per ounce.

Silver opened lower in Zurich at \$5.12 per ounce against \$5.15 per ounce at Friday's close, and also was lower in London at \$5.13 per ounce against \$5.15 per ounce.

Toni Kamai, a currency analyst with New Japan Securities Co., said the overnight intervention was only a token action by the central banks to show they were fulfilling their pledge at the G-7 meeting.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.150
Sri Lankan rupee	7.430
Pakistani rupee	13.720
Bangladesh taka	8.530
US dollars	284.00
Pound sterling	48.300
UAE dirham	0.8013
Deutsche mark	1.7395
Japanese yen	101.855

The Middle East, Africa & Europe COOPERATION OR CONFLICT? EUROMEA '92

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Dr. Abdallah el Kuwaiz, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, GCC.

Clay Timon, World President for the LAA. Vice President/Director of worldwide advertising of Colgate-Palmolive.

Mr Ghassan Tuani, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon, Former UN Ambassador for Lebanon.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The fee for this conference is UK £895.00. This includes 2 dinners, 2 lunches, cocktails, tea & coffee and entrance to conference.

Simultaneous English/French French/English Translation will be available throughout the conference.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

The conference will be held at the Royal Monceau, 37 Ave Hoche 75008 Paris, France.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

A limited number of rooms are available at special rates at the Royal Monceau

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To register, please complete and return this form to: Susan Small, Spectrum Communications, 16-18 Acton Park Estate, Stanley Gardens, London W37QE, England Tel: 740 4444

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Pepsico, Soviets sign \$3b contract

MOSCOW, April 10, (Agencies): In the largest commercial deal between a US company and the Soviet Union, the makers of Pepsi-Cola yesterday signed a \$3 billion, 10-year pact doubling Soviet production of the soft drink.

In exchange, the Soviet Union will lease ships for foreign currency and re-invest the proceeds in Pepsi projects. In addition, the Soviet Union will supply more Stolichnaya vodka in the United States.

Since 1974, the US company has shipped Pepsi-Cola syrup to the Soviet Union, where it is made into the soft drink and bottled. Pepsi-Cola takes its profits by selling Stolichnaya vodka through a third party in the United States.

The agreement extends until the year 2000 Pepsi's exclusive right to market Stolichnaya in the United States and includes plans to open two of Pepsi's Pizza Hut subsidiaries in the Soviet Union.

"It is the largest, most far-reaching agreement signed by an American consumer goods company in the Soviet Union," said Pepsi-Cola chief executive Donald Kendall at a news conference. "It will generate over \$3 billion in retail sales here and in the United States."

The deal calls for the Soviet Union to build at least 10 ships, mostly oil tankers, that will be sold or leased by Pepsi in return for foreign credits.

Kendall said that six of the ships have already been built, with the two sides going ahead under terms of a letter of intent signed two years ago.

He said that Pepsi will increase the number of Soviet plants from 24 to 50 over the next five years.

Double

Kendall said that under the new agreement, Pepsi-Cola sales were expected to double and that the Stolichnaya market will be significantly expanded in the United States, including marketing of two new vodka products.

Enhanced profits, augmented by funds from the ship-leasing deal will allow Pepsi to open two Pizza Hut restaurants in Moscow in conjunction with a Soviet partner, Kendall said.

The pizza parlours have been at the planning stage for about two years, with no signs of an early opening. However, Kendall said he expected them to be fully operational by this summer as a result of yesterday's deal.

Anatoly Belichenko, first deputy chairman of the Soviet Commission on Food and Procurement, said after the expansion, "all big Soviet cities will have a Pepsi bottler."

"Our goal is by the year 2000, that a bottle of Pepsi will be within a 10-minute walk for all Soviets."

But the Soviet official added that with the Soviet Union's current per capita consumption of soft drinks at about 7 gallons (26 L) a year, there was no danger of catching up with the United States, where he said consumers drink an average of 49.4 gallons (187 L) of soft drinks annually.

"We prefer milk and water," he said with a laugh.

East endorses Western values

Soviet bloc supports private property

BONN, April 10, (AP): The Soviet Union and other East bloc nations yesterday gave broad endorsement to Western-style economic principles during East-West economic conference, participants said.

Western participants said it was the first time East bloc countries have committed themselves so clearly to Western economic values.

"The most important thing in all this, is the adoption of these principles by all 35 states would have been unheard of 12 months ago," said Alan Holmer, head of the US delegation at the 35-nation Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said the Bonn conference has brought about a "far-reaching commitment to market economy" in Eastern Europe. But he added that "what is important now is to put this into practice."

Western firms bid

Investors race for E. German market

EAST BERLIN, April 10, (AP): Dieter Kloss grinned as yet another group of western businessmen with bulging briefcases crammed the lobby of the modest but busy offices of the East German chamber of foreign trade.

"I'm having a great time at work these days. Only six months ago such coming and going would have been unthinkable," said Kloss, an economist.

The chamber is advising growing numbers of US, West European, and Asian businesses trying to get a foot in East Germany before the market is saturated.

Before the dramatic opening of the country's borders and the collapse of communist rule last fall, most of the chamber's visitors came from the East Bloc trading alliance Comecon.

"Western firms began coming from day one of the changes and we're encouraging them partly because we're feeling a bit overrun by West Germany," Kloss said.

Signs of the arrival of foreign firms are spreading across East Berlin.

Almost daily, workmen at the international trade center climb up a high ladder in the lobby to letter the names of new companies that have leased office space in the downtown skyscraper.

Levi Strauss recently mounted its red logo on the door of a 15th-floor suite from which the company will run future operations in East Germany, where western jeans are already a hit.

Coca-Cola began selling soda in East Germany two months ago and its West German subsidiary is now seeking an East German partner to start a production plant.

Both Levi Strauss and Coca-Cola were sold previously in East Germany, but only in hard-currency intershops for foreigners.

Price Waterhouse Inc., the US financial services firm, is setting up in East Berlin, as is the prestigious investment bank, Salomon Brothers Inc.

"If you want to be part of East German developments you have to have a presence there," said Peter Coyne, managing director of Salomon Brothers' operations in West Germany.

The bank plans to open its office in the sumptuous Grand Hotel in East Berlin in mid-April, with a focus on investment banking and consulting connected to the privatization of state companies.

The computer giant IBM plans a joint venture with the East German firm Robotron, while General Motors-Opel beat out West German firms Daimler-Benz and BMW to book up with the Wartburg car plant.

Caterpillar has started marketing tractors, backloaders and other agricultural and building machines through its West German subsidiary, Zeppelin.

"There is great demand in East Germany. Their machines are old and outdated. Everybody is interested in getting a foot in East Germany," said Hans Knausel, a spokesman for Zeppelin.

It didn't used to be that way. For four decades, the communist governments and complicated centralized economies discouraged western businessmen from trying to trade with East Germany.

Trade with the United States in 1989 amounted to about \$200 million, turnover with France was under \$2 billion and there was almost no business at all with South Korea.

Western organizations that encouraged business in West Berlin must now start thinking of Berlin as a whole.

The American chamber of commerce is considering a move from West to East Berlin, where its offices were located before World War II.

The Berlin Economic Development Corporation founded in 1978 with the task of attracting outside investment to West Berlin is also now looking eastward.

"Recently we expanded our activities in the eastern direction. Companies who come to us for advice are more interested in East Berlin," said Helmut Wolf, who advises English-speaking companies.

Other West European and Asian countries have joined the United States in the race to penetrate the East German market, swamped by West German firms seeking partners.

The Italian carmaker Fiat has announced plans to produce cars in East Germany.

Haussmann said there is still a long way to go before all the oral commitments can be put into a legal and economic framework for implementation.

Holmer said all 35 participating nations — the United States and Canada plus all European countries except Albania — earlier in the day informally endorsed a document outlining a number of principles necessary for improving business conditions in the East bloc and expanding East-West economic co-operation.

The principles are not legally binding, but Holmer said they would likely improve prospects for Western investment in reform-minded Eastern European countries.

Moscow and its reformist allies, in a move unthinkable only months ago, have accepted an international accord committing them to back private property, free enterprise and multi-party democracy, delegates said.

The document, submitted by six neutral countries was based largely on proposals from the European Economic Community and the United States.

Signal

"It (the document) sends a clear signal to Western businessmen that central and Eastern European countries are open for business, based on the market principles that have been agreed to here," Holmer said.

He said the fact that all 35 nations approved the document "makes it more likely that current trends toward market economies and political pluralism will continue, and there will not be any backsliding."

The US delegation handed out copies of parts of the documents to reporters.

According to the document, the 35 nations acknowledge that "increased reliance on market forces" should improve economic performance.

It also says that "the performance of market-based economies relies primarily on the freedom of individual enterprise."

Key parts in the document are also that countries will try to achieve or maintain balanced economic growth, free flow of trade, capital and investment, and also will recognize in full and protect all types of property "including private property."

The 35 nations further agreed on the need for an "undistorted internal pricing" system, which they said is a necessary step toward currency convertibility.

The states pledged to co-operate in efforts to thoroughly reform their economies, where needed, and consider changes in banking laws, investment law and taxation.

The document contains elements from proposals by the United States and the 12-nation European Economic Community.

The document now agreed acknowledges the relationship between political pluralism and market economies," said Irish Industry and Commerce Minister Desmond O'Malley, addressing the conference on behalf of the 12-nation EEC.

"We now agree to pursue market principles and have specified how these are to be implemented — through provision of more complete economic and commercial information, through promotion of direct business contacts, through the free flow of trade, capital and investment and by ensuring that market conditions in our countries actually stimulate business enterprise."

The strict central planning once the norm in communist Eastern Europe found no backers at the talks.

creating new ones.

Brady also renewed the long-standing debate over affording the President line-item veto power over the budget — while acknowledging that this was unlikely to be granted by Congress.

He said the US budget deficit once more came up in the gathering of the group of seven industrial powers, which met on Saturday in Paris on a strategy to shore up the weakening Japanese yen, among other issues.

"People in the meeting... talked again and again about the deficit in the United States," Brady told the Greater New York Savings bonds committee gathering.

He said that the obligation to finance the US deficit "takes away from the pool of savings and damages the economy."

In this connection, Brady hailed savings bonds as both a "most cost-effective way for the treasury to finance debt" and a "major positive factor in our nation's effort to increase the savings rate."

Brady called a proposal to eliminate the federal budget deficit — including scrapping Gramm-Rudman — made recently by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the House Ways and Means committee "courageous." But he added that the

Democrats' call for new taxes on gasoline and other commodities was misguided.

"If we fall for that, we will really have had one put over on us," Brady said, referring to any elimination of Gramm-Rudman.

"We don't want to get into a debate... on which is the most virtuous tax, which is the handsomest tax," Brady said. "What we have to pay attention to in this country is the spending side."

Brady cited the progression of taxes and spending as a proportion of US gross national product and spoke of taxpayers' unwillingness to pay new taxes.

Concern has been raised among some West Germans that the costs of unification could prove a heavy economic burden, including tax increases.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said yesterday part of the costs of unification could be covered by spending less on defence.

Some opposition politicians have said West Germany will have to raise taxes to cover the high price for unity.

But the five institutes said West German growth would likely be able to absorb unification costs.

"In the mid-term, tax increases... will not be necessary," Schatz said.

But Schatz also called on West German and East German politicians to take the necessary steps to preserve East German jobs as the two nations negotiate the terms of currency union.

East German politicians are pressing for a general 1-to-1 swap of East German marks for West German marks. But Western financial experts have warned that could create high unemployment in East Germany because it would increase businesses' debts as well as their payrolls.

Some forecasts have said 2 million East Germans could lose their jobs.

Schatz said, "the main goal should be holding onto as many East German jobs as possible."

In their report, the five institutes said strong economic growth in West Germany over the next two years hinges on East Germany scrapping its planned economy in favour of a free-market system.

West Germany's economic, legal and tax systems will have to be adopted by East Germany, the experts said.

Schatz said East Germany will be faced with "enormous pressures" during the transition to a market-economy system. But he said those same pressures "bring great advantages."

Accord on bank for E. Europe

Soviet Union becomes full member

PARIS, April 10, (AP): A dispute over the role of the Soviet Union was resolved yesterday as officials from 42 countries reached agreement on establishing an international development bank for Eastern Europe.

Under a compromise formula, the Soviet Union will become a full-fledged member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, but will agree to limit its borrowing for the first three years.

Jacques Attali, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand, said the official signing of an accord to create the bank will take place May 30 in Paris. At that time, the location of the bank headquarters and the identity of its first president will be revealed, he said.

Attali's news conference followed meetings Sunday and Monday of representatives of the 42 countries planning to contribute to

the bank's capital base.

Attali said the representatives agreed on 58 articles of the bank's statutes, settling such outstanding issues as the type of currency to be used in the bank, the amount and form of capital contributions of each member, and the role of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union will be a full member. Attali said, but will only be eligible for loans totalling the amount of paid-in capital it contributes each year for a period of three years. The Soviet Union will contribute 6 per cent of the bank's capital, he said.

After three years, the restrictions can be removed with the approval of 85 per cent of the member countries, Attali said.

The delegates agreed that the US dollar, Japanese yen and European currency unit all

can be used to contribute capital to the bank.

At the first session to set terms for the bank, in January, the United States objected to full participation by the Soviet Union unless Moscow initiated major market reforms.

In addition to the United States and virtually every European country, participants in the bank include Japan, Morocco, Israel, Egypt and South Korea.

European Community countries and institutions will provide 51 per cent of the capital. Sixty per cent of projects financed will be in the private sector while 40 per cent will be earmarked for public infrastructure.

London, Amsterdam and Paris are front runners for the headquarters site while Attali and former Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding are principal candidates to be its president.

Prosecution of trade conspiracies

US Antitrust warns

WASHINGTON, April 10, (UPI): In a warning to Japan and other US trading partners, the justice department's Antitrust chief yesterday he is considering prosecuting overseas trade conspiracies in US courts.

James Rill, the assistant attorney general for Antitrust Enforcement, made the comment while discussing what he called Japan's recent "significant steps" toward trade reform.

Rill said he is considering whether to bring suit in US courts for trade restraint conspiracies that occur in foreign nations.

"It's something I'm studying very actively at the moment," Rill told reporters.

The Bush administration believes tough antitrust enforcement "enhances efficiency, enhances competitiveness and contributes to the openness of markets in the United States," Rill said.

"There is a perception," Rill said, "that price-fixing, bid-rigging, market allocations through boycotts have become very prevalent in Japan."

US courts could have jurisdiction over such cases if the companies involved do business in the United States or have offices on US soil, he said.

"We would be looking in the US courts where the effect of a conspiracy, for example, is to restrain US trade," Rill said. "The fact that the conspiracy may have occurred overseas would not prevent us from exercising jurisdiction... where we can reach the parties to the conspiracy through US offices or otherwise."

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Mad Dads goal

Fathers find formula to keep the young out of trouble

OMAHA, Neb. (CSM): Omaha's vast stretch of neat, single-family houses, punctuated by shopping malls and grain elevators, seems an unlikely place for drive-by drug shootings and gangs with names like Bloods, Crips, Hessians, Skinheads, Jamaican Posse, and East Omaha Rats. But they are there.

"We have a drug problem," says Mayor J.P. Morgan in a recent interview. "It's not as serious as Los Angeles, Kansas City, or Phoenix, but it's a vicious, serious one that affects the lives of many people."

For city employee John Foster, the problem came home one night last June. "My son was attacked by gang members and viciously beaten up," he says after a meeting of the board of the Mad Dads fathers' group be founded. "He had no ties with gangs or drugs. He just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. He came home and got me."

Foster, who towers over other directors in the room, took to the streets looking for the car carrying his son's assailants: "I was literally a mad dad."

He did not find them. But while cruising North Omaha and questioning gang members on street corners, he found a reality that disturbed him as much as the assault on his son. "The streets belonged to children," he says.

He called a few friends on Omaha's north side and founded Mad Dads, an acronym for Men Against Destruction ... Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder.

The purpose of the group, he says, is "to get strong black men back onto the streets, into the lives of their children."

Soft-spoken Mad Dads director Robert Tyler, pastor of North Omaha's Church of the Living God, joined the group because the drug problem, "has been a part of my ministry. I came here from Pittsburgh, and all the vices and drug activity that were there are unfolding here. I've seen lives being ruined. I take it very personally."

Lafayette Nelson managed apartments in North Omaha for 25 years, and in that capacity saw up close how gang and drug activity moved into the city's projects. Now retired, "the captain" co-ordinates Mad Dads' street patrols on Omaha's north and south sides every weekend. But he says he is out himself every night to stay in touch with "what's happening."

"Anywhere you can help a child, you've really done something," he says. "These kids have the least contact with grown people. That's what we're trying to provide. They don't need heroes like Superman and Dr. J, they



John Foster, founder of Mad Dads.

need someone to talk to like I had when I was growing up, someone you could talk to and trust."

Mad Dads launched its activities by painting over gang graffiti in the neighborhood. "It was a way of notifying gangs and the city that we were up," says Mad Dads president Eddie Stalon, former director of the City of

Omaha's Human Relations Department.

"We really think we've hit a formula that will work anywhere in the country," says Stalon. "We've reduced Mad Dads to a common denominator: parents."

"Whether you graduated from Harvard or the school of hard

knocks," adds Nelson.

The group began with 18 members, but quickly grew to more than 400-35 per cent of whom are white parents. After bullets were fired into the home of one of the group's white members in North Omaha in December (no one was injured), calls from white applicants shot up, said Stalon in a phone interview. In a survey published by the Omaha World Herald newspaper recently, 86 per cent of those polled said they approved of Mad Dads.

An independent Mad Dads chapter has been launched in Denver, and the Omaha group has received inquiries from all over the country.

Directors mince no words over their loathing of drugs or the activities of those who promote them. But what distinguishes the language of Omaha's Mad Dads from the tough talk surrounding the national "war on drugs" is a strain of respect, sympathy, and even affection for "children" caught up in gang activity.

"We must change our way of thinking about these kids," says Nelson. "The misconception is that these gang members are stupid kids. But these kids are very intelligent, and given the opportunity, the first thing a kid will tell you is 'I can't get respect.' He

means he wants a job, a place in the system."

"Gang members are some of the best marketing specialists, accounting specialists, communications specialists," says Stalon. "Yet the schools can't do anything with them."

"Some of these kids tell you to live fast, die young, and have a beautiful corpse," says Nelson. "When they start talking like that, you just keep talking to them. We try to isolate the leaders and then talk to the rest of them. It's beginning to turn around, and I can see the difference."

City and police officials in Omaha are more guarded in claiming a turnaround in drug and gang activity. They link progress to the city's tougher enforcement and "pro-active" policies, including the mayor's new policy of enforcing "drug-free zones" around schools and playgrounds, which double the penalty for distributing drugs in those areas.

But Mad Dads insists that "get tough" enforcement policies miss the point.

"The national effort is pitiful," says Stalon. "They do not understand what the real problem is. The money needs to go on the front-end for prevention and support rather than the back-end for prosecutors, judges, attorneys. All

that does is create jobs for prosecutors, judges, and attorneys."

The difference is that kids know we're thinking of them, says Nelson. "I say, 'What you're doing here is short-lived. You can't draw social security. Can't retire. Can't live. We're going to offer you something better.'"

"We're dealing with some hard cases, the guys supposed to be the ring leaders," he adds. "Even they want to get out of it. The other night I was talking to a (gang) shooter — they don't get any worse. He said, 'I'd go back to school today if I could get a job earning \$6 to \$7 an hour.'"

Several Mad Dads interviewed for this article said they often apologize to gang members on behalf of black men.

"Whenever we talk to kids, we say 'We are sorry. As black men, we haven't been there when you needed us most,'" says Stalon, a single father who is raising two children. "When we talk face-to-face, you can see that street stuff drain out. Men cannot be intimidated by 15-year-old boys — men who are Vietnam veterans or who have been to prison. We say, 'We're trying to show you how to make it. Otherwise, reserve a jail cell or plot in a cemetery, because that's where you're going.'"

Where the dead live in makeshift homes

Funeral parties are elaborate

RANTEPAO, Indonesia. (Reuters): The village chief who died near here 10 years ago is not dead at all, just ill, according to local custom.

"His mother doesn't want to part with him, so no funeral. Every year she puts it off," says an old man sitting under a finely carved rice barn opposite the dead man's temporary home.

Only at the moment that the first water buffalo's throat is cut and the blood gushes out at the funeral in these Toraja Highlands will he be considered dead.

Until then he is referred to as ill, and while his body lies in a large wooden house nestled among the green rice fields and tall coconut palms, his spirit must wander the area.

He will remain in limbo until his mother gathers all his relatives together for what will be a very large and costly series of funeral ceremonies.

Funerals, lots of them with lots of slaughtered animals, are a major social phenomenon in these rice-rich mountains. Centred in the octopus-shaped eastern Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

Local guide Benjamin Paranoan says there is a death party every day somewhere in the highlands.

Births get little attention and weddings are worth a one-day party, but for funerals Torajans pull out all the stops. The main ceremonies mark one, seven, 40 and 100 days of death.

It is not clear quite why the Torajans became so obsessed with funerals.

Funerals, lots of them with lots of slaughtered animals, are a major social phenomenon in these rice-rich mountains, centred in the octopus-shaped eastern Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

One theory is that when Dutch colonial rulers came to the region to spread Christianity, they found funerals the one acceptable part of pagan beliefs.

But Torajans, who shudder at the thought of being buried outside their homeland, show with pride monoliths and ornate graveyards dating from long before Christians arrived.

Muslim Torajans must be buried within 24 hours of death, but those who follow other religions die in a formal sense at the convenience of their relatives.

Adolfina, in the nearby village of Talonggip, is waiting for the rice harvest months between July and September to hold a really big funeral for her aunt.

Wrapped in a thick cloth bundle, her aunt's body has lain upstairs in this traditional house, which vaguely resembles a ship, for about a year.

"I give her food and drink every night and mourning and keep her company," Adolfina says.

There is no smell. Some Torajans say plants they eat ensure an odourless corpse, though others say formalin helps.

Adolfina keeps a bed in the next room beside a pile of rice. Above hangs a brass

decides to hold the funeral.

That is when the hoodletting starts. With a cracking thud, an axe splits the head of a buffalo.

Men cut off slices of dark red meat. The large stomach, full of steaming green grass, is slung out of the way.

"We'll probably kill about 30 buffaloes today," says one relative at a ceremony, in Sadaan a few miles north of Ranteapo, to celebrate the seventh day after a funeral. The family is Muslim so there are no pigs, common at funerals for Christian or animistic Torajans.

The relative moves off to make sure the 1,000 or so guests are being looked after. The atmosphere is festive, as waiting is reserved for the first funeral.

A master of ceremonies asks everyone not to get excited when names are called out and presents passed to the senior guests. They get a tin of cigarettes, cash worth the equivalent of about two dollars, a tin of beer and a chunk of raw, dripping meat.

Away from the centre of the funeral party, men try to get a pair of bulls to fight each other, betting on which will run away first. Other men saunter by carrying mildly intoxicating palm wine in bamboo con-

tainers. A rich family could spend 150 million rupiah (\$2,000 dollars) on a death by the time all the ceremonies are over. The country's average annual income per person is 500 dollars.

"It used to be 25 buffalo maximum for the upper class but now it's at least 100. They want to look good. There's a lot of competition," says Benjamin.

"People look at an old man and they're already calculating the number of buffalo that will be killed at his funeral."

In colonial days, an aristocrat's funeral would feature the slaughter of a wide range of animals and one unfortunate villager whose head would be part of the sacrifice.

After the funeral, the body is usually taken to a burial ground where its bones will mingle with those of its ancestors. But many of the upper class families prefer to bury their dead in family vaults carved into the surrounding cliffs.

From balconies cut into the rock high above ground, wooden effigies representing the dead stare blankly out across the rice paddies, their arms extended in friendly welcome.

Under one balcony a bleached skull looks out from a hole in the wall. The door of this vault, says a local, was stolen and sold to foreign tourists.

Another sign of the times, lameis Benjamin, is that the lower classes are now competing with their social superiors to throw extravagant funerals. "Ob, it's terrible," he says.



Kathy Trotter (centre) with participants in Mad Moms in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mad Moms goal

Keep kids out of gangs

By Gail Russell Chaddock

OMAHA, Neb. It is 26 below zero in Omaha, Neb., and most cars are frozen in driveways. But Kathy Trotter has been at the Mad Dads office in North Omaha for hours — on her day off — taking calls from volunteers.

Callers had seen a spot on local news the night before and are phoning to take children on outings, shop for presents, work with parents to support children during the holidays. The phone rings all morning.

Trotter is the chairman of Mad Moms, a spinoff organisation of the anti-gang group MAD Dads. The women's group has attracted 120 members. As assistant principal at Omaha's Wakonda and

Kellom Elementary Schools, Trotter sees the effect of the drug trade on the lives of children firsthand, and says she wanted to support Mad Dads the minute she heard about the organization.

"For so long black women have been the backbone of the community... Any meetings you saw (involved) mainly women. It makes me feel good to see men taking a stand in the community," she says. Apparently, many women in Omaha agree with her. In a poll published by the Omaha World Herald recently, 92 per cent of women surveyed supported Mad Dads; only 3 per cent disapproved.

"We're all working for one goal: To get kids off the streets and out of gangs," says Trotter. "But Mad Moms have their own approach: 'We're working on trying to build strong families.'"

Before going to Sydney, load up on pop tarts

By David Clark Scott

SYDNEY (CSM): In any relationship, it's the nagging things you have to watch out for. Getting irritated because, for example, your spouse "always" mangles the toothpaste tube when you prefer to neatly roll it up.

In our two-year-old relationship with Australia, it's the "insignificant" things discovered during shopping forays which have often served to delight or unleash a petty Ugly American streak (despite vows never to succumb to such sentiments).

Take Pop Tarts. Scour the supermarkets and you will not find these sugar-frosted, jam-filled confections. Not that I'm a big fan of Pop Tarts, but it's the things you can't get that you crave. Ditto for Nestle's chocolate chips and "real" hot dogs. Only children devour Australian hot dogs. Perhaps it's because the bright red, artificially coloured tubes are stuffed with a substance that gives new meaning to the term "mystery meat." According to reliable sources, Sydney's Australian-American Society has been alerted to this gastronomic indecency and now special-orders "American" hot dogs for its July 4 celebrations.

And I'm not thrilled with paying 30-50 percent more for a car (thanks to import duties) or a minimum of \$120 for a pair of Reebok sneakers. But lest such peeves get me off on the wrong foot with my "Ozzie" mates, there are positive tradeoffs.

Food, for example, is generally cheaper. Instead of Pop Tarts, we have a stunning choice of freshly baked multi-grain breads and rolls.

Supermarket fruit juices come in magnificent tropical flavours and blends: guava, mango and orange, apricot and apple, banana and pineapple. Sparkling, non-alcoholic grape and apple juices are readily available. "We're reaping the benefit of products developed for export to the Saudis who can't drink alcohol for religious reasons," explains an Australian business friend.

Lamb is a bargain and cooked on the "barbie" (barbecue) is as tender as any fillet

mignon. The seafood shops (not to be confused with the fish and chips shops) provide sumptuous South Pacific delights: Barramundi, Tasmanian rainbow trout, and shrimp big enough to intimidate a Maine lobster.

For one of Sydney's most unique shopping experiences, take stroll through Gowing's. Adjacent to some of the most exclusive retail outlets in central Sydney is this discount store that appears to be blithely (and successfully) operating a few decades in the past.

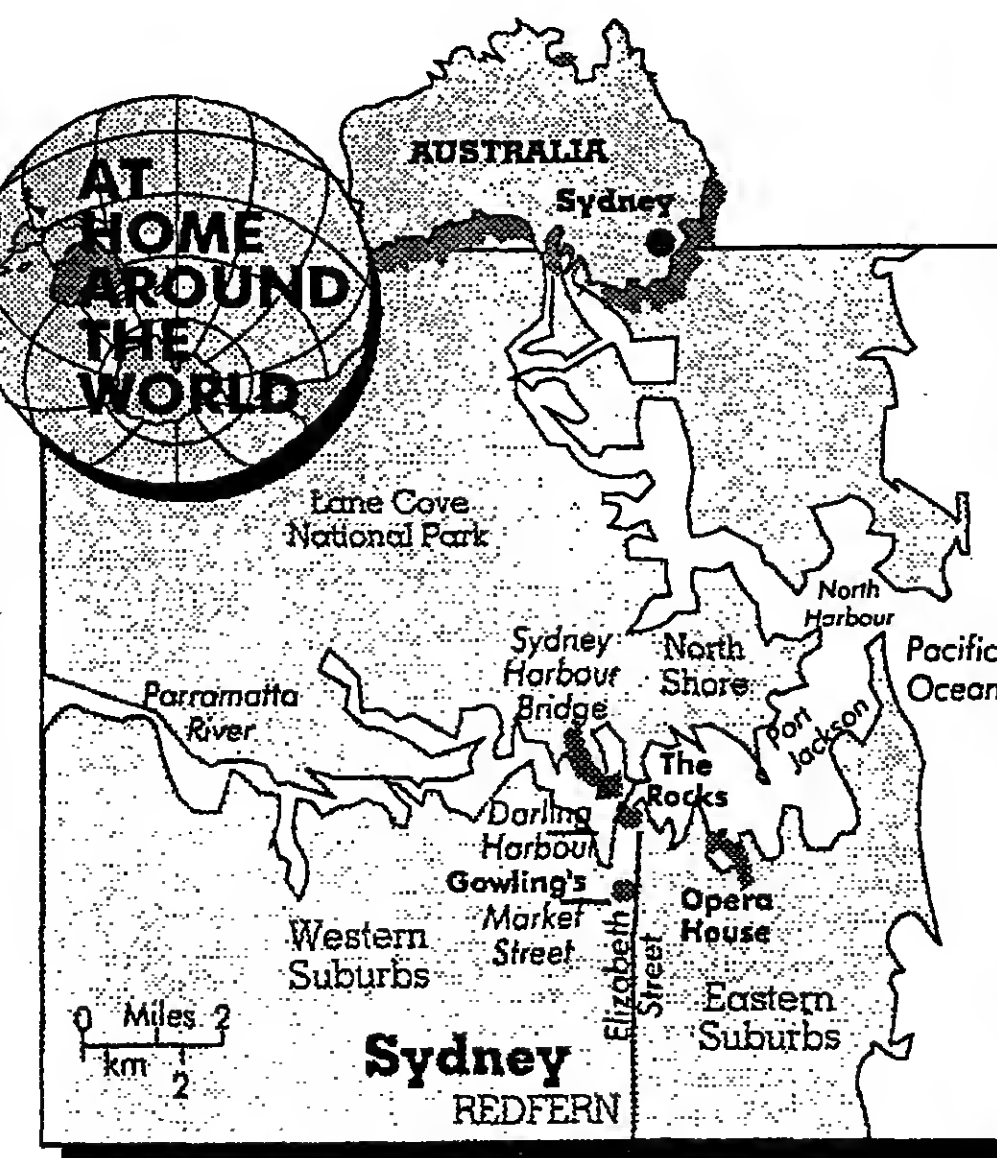
The plain signs outside tout: "Gowings Est. 1868. Walk Thru No One Asked To Buy." On the first floor you'll find such items as "uncrushable" ties. Downstairs, check out the cricket whites and lawn bowls department. They're right next to the bib overalls, duster coats, and a rack of \$199 (\$160) dinner suits (tuxedos). "You won't find a better price on dinner suits anywhere in town," assures an elderly sales gentleman.

One quarter of the third floor used to be an accounting department corralled off, but open for all to see. Recently, it's been replaced by a Big Men's section. In the hat department, tables are piled high with everything from private-school straw bowlers to outback Akubras (felt, cowboy-style hats). Undoubtedly to ensure a good fit, the hat section shares space with half-a-dozen scissor-wielding barbers (\$4 for a regular hair cut, \$6.25 for a shave, \$8 for a flat-top or long hair).

But whether it be this anachronistic gem or Australia's equivalent of Bloomingdale's (David Jones), shopping hours here are decidedly shorter — so we discovered a few days after arriving in Sydney.

At 7 pm my wife announced that our two-year-old daughter was down to her last "nappie." Borrowing a ubiquitous Ozzie phrase, I said, "No worries, mate" and dashed out the door. But, strangely, all the stores in our neighborhood were bolted up for the night.

After an hour of searching, it became apparent that Australia's largest metropolitan center, home to 4 million people, was not endowed with anything



vaguely approaching the 24-hour supermarket we'd become accustomed to in our New York City neighborhood. I returned home empty-handed and

upset. My wife nannied it with aplomb: "Right. I guess that means it's time Jasmine completed her toilet training."

The absence of evening shopping hours

went against years of Madison Avenue conditioning. It was disconcerting for a guy raised in a society succinctly captured by such T-shirt truisms as "Born to Shop," or "When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Go Shopping," and my favourite: "The Person With the Most Things When He Dies, Wins."

Eventually, we learned that "late night" shopping exists in Sydney: (on Thursdays, until 9 pm. And we found Food Plus, a chain of 24-hour gas station-grocery stores. Otherwise, most stores close between 5 and 6 pm. On Saturdays, don't bother to go to a department or hardware store after 4 pm.

"Don't they know the consumer is king?" I'd rant to anyone who'd listen. "What kind of a capitalist closes his store at 4 pm?" My polite Australian friends patiently explained that union wage "penalty rates" made it costly to keep stores open past certain hours. More direct liberal friends countered with diatribes on consumerism gone mad in America.

In the last few months, Sunday shopping has started to gain a foothold in Sydney. But the 300,000-member retail employees union refused to work when major department stores were given the green light to keep stores open during the two Sundays before Christmas last year.

"Christmas is a time of relaxation and leisure after a long, hard year. It is not a time to break up family reunions by forcing some of us to work even longer hours," stated the union in half-page advertisements.

Australians tend to cherish family values. Longer shopping hours are often viewed from the workers' perspective, not the consumers' or employers'. The idyllic climate may also be a factor. Many Australians, it seems, would rather be home in time to fire up a beach-side barbie on a Saturday afternoon than be working the checkout counter at K-mart.

"It's a matter of priorities: Do you want to live to work, or work to live?" explains David Plowman, professor of industrial relations at the University of New South Wales.

On a recent trip back to the United States, I was struck by the incredible range of choices, the number of glitzy retail shops, and wondered if the resources spent on marketing was worth it.

I caught a glimpse of what my Australian friends meant by their snide comments on American consumerism.

Maybe they've got a point. But before going back to Sydney, loaded up on Pop Tarts.

What to know if you go Shopping. The Rocks is "the" tourists shopping district near Sydney Harbour's Circular Quay. It has everything from "koala crossing" signs to Aboriginal art to boomers.

Before buying, though, check prices at similar shops on George Street and Pitt Street. Also, explore the many duty-free shops in Sydney. If shopping for Akubras and catlemen's coats (known by brand name "Driz-a-Bone"), go to Gowing's at the corner of Market and George Streets.

The Bloomingdale's of Sydney is David Jones (corner of Elizabeth and Market). The Macy's is Grace Brothers (corner of Market and George).

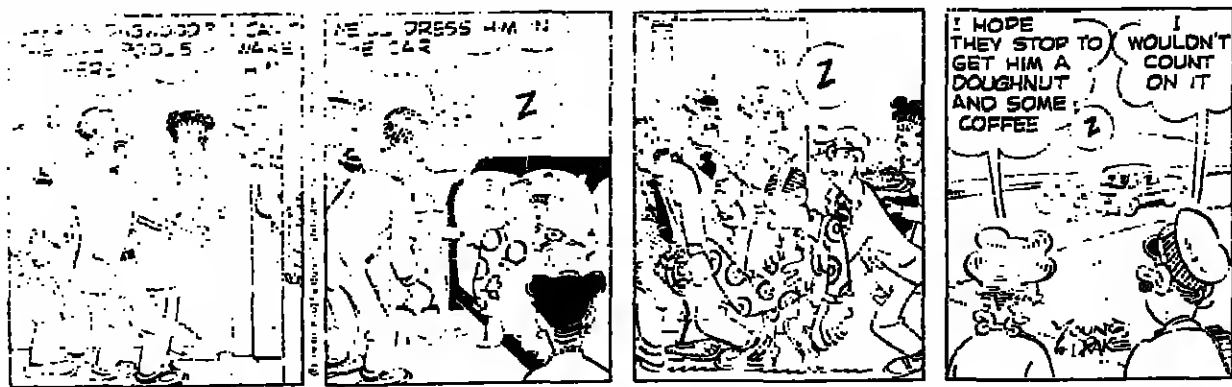
The alter-ego of The Rocks: Paddy's Markets. A vast array of flea-market-type discount stalls which include electronics, books, weird birds, lizards and other fauna, clothing, crafts, and vegetables. It's in the inner-city suburb of Redfern, in an old railway workshop building near the train station. It's open Saturdays from 7 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays 9 am to 4 pm.

● Sights. Darling Harbour is Sydney's version of New York's South Street Seaport, Boston's Faneuil Hall Marketplace, etc., but with fewer people, cleaner water, monorail transport, and a Chinese garden said to be unsurpassed by anything outside of China.

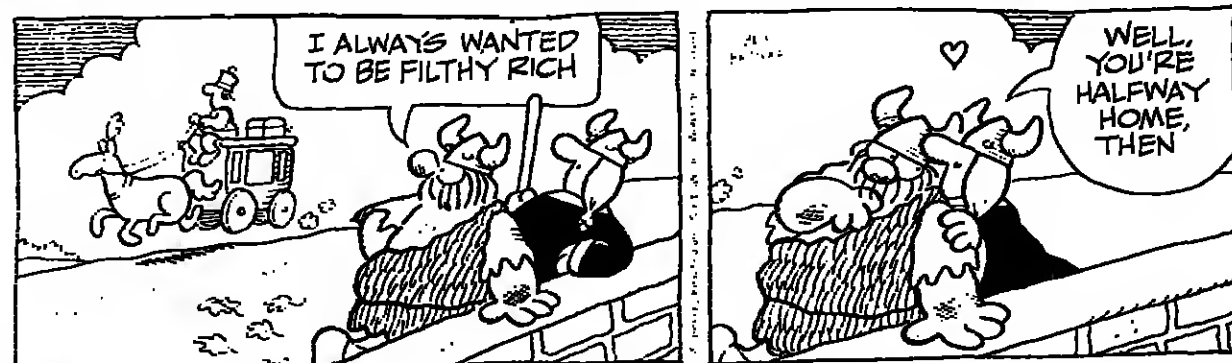
● General information. Tourism Commission of New South Wales (corner of Pitt and Spring Streets). Visitors or armchair tourists might enjoy "Australia: A Travel Survival Kit" (Lonely Planet Publications, P.O. Box 88 South Yarra, Victoria 3141, Australia; or P.O. Box 2001A, Berkeley, Calif., 94702).

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



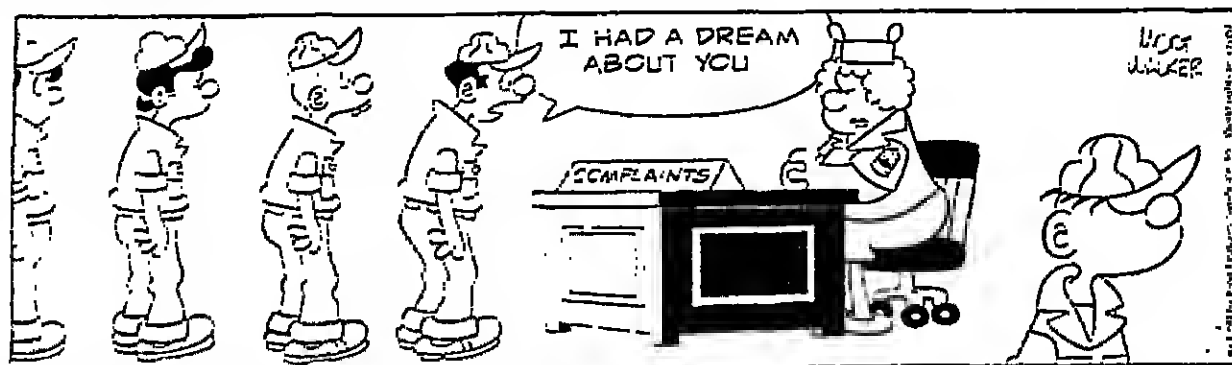
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



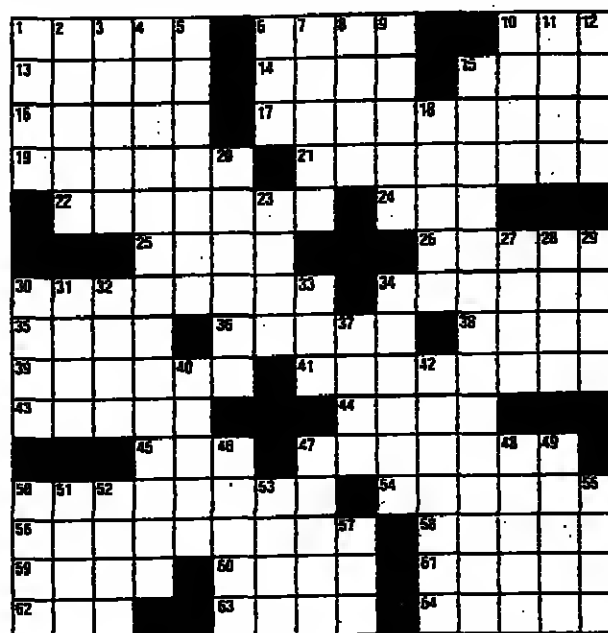
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fortson & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Malicious
 - Peter, Paul or Ivan
 - Old English letter
 - Falcon's weapon
 - dixit
 - Wings
 - Declares openly
 - Animadversion
 - "The Menace"
 - "That's why the lady —"
 - On the briny
 - Greek letter
 - Captain of the "Nautilus"
 - Custom
 - Vulnerable point
 - Affront
 - Nanking nanny
 - Legislate
 - Fox or turkey
 - Overlay
 - Distort
 - "We have met the —, and he is us"; Pogo
 - Spot for a beret
 - A third of a shunt
 - Island E of Borneo
 - Reconnaissance vehicle
 - Fountain favorite
 - Limit of patience
 - Gene Tormey film, 1944
 - Tallinn native
 - City in Sicily
 - Restless energy
- DOWN**
- Dutch town
 - Hubs
 - One of the Massey's
 - Dejected
 - Stores grain
 - Spasmodic contraction
 - Stripling
 - Sale sign
 - Fix pavement
 - Famed essayist
 - Hobart's isl.
 - Sisal
 - Comprehensive
 - Norse goddess of Spring; Var.
 - Silly smile
 - High time
 - Subtle emanation
 - Messy mess serving
 - Luncheon
 - Except
 - Foretoken
 - Temple or church
 - o'Shanter
 - "... thou art the thing —"; King Lear
 - Issue a summons
 - Aits; Var.
 - Stars, to Cato
 - Group of eight
 - "The Red Badge of Courage" author
 - cologne
 - Thurmond of the Senate
 - "Rosebud" of film
 - Perry Mason's concern
 - Elbe feeder
 - Pisa's river
 - Poet Teasdale
 - Bankroll
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- APAR DIME AFTER
DORE OLAV LOBAN
DOOT WIRE LOBAN
O'CARINA'S EATEN
CHRISTCHURCH
MSU TRILLED
AND ERECT LIRIA
JACK IN THE PULPIT
ASIN H'RAM SEE
RAVIOLI NBA
THE CHOIRBOYS
LATIN ESCALLOP
FOLIO L'EAK ALDIA
AGAINA EDGE TIEIR
DELGN USED EELIS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHAPIRO
CHOOSE THE HIDDEN FINESSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ QJ

♥ 8542

♦ 763

♣ QJ84

WEST

♠ 10985

♥ J963

♦ Q9

♣ 1075

EAST

♠ 76432

♥ 107

♦ KJ10

♣ K62

SOUTH

♠ AK

♥ AKQ

♦ A8542

♣ A93

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Bridge is a game of never-ending

wonders. When we first saw this

situation it cropped up in a slight-

ly different guise some years ago.

South's sequence showed a bal-

anced hand of 25-27 points. With

all primes and a five-card suit

South's hand was worth considera-

bly more than its nominal count.

But for the duplication of spade

shortness the contract would have

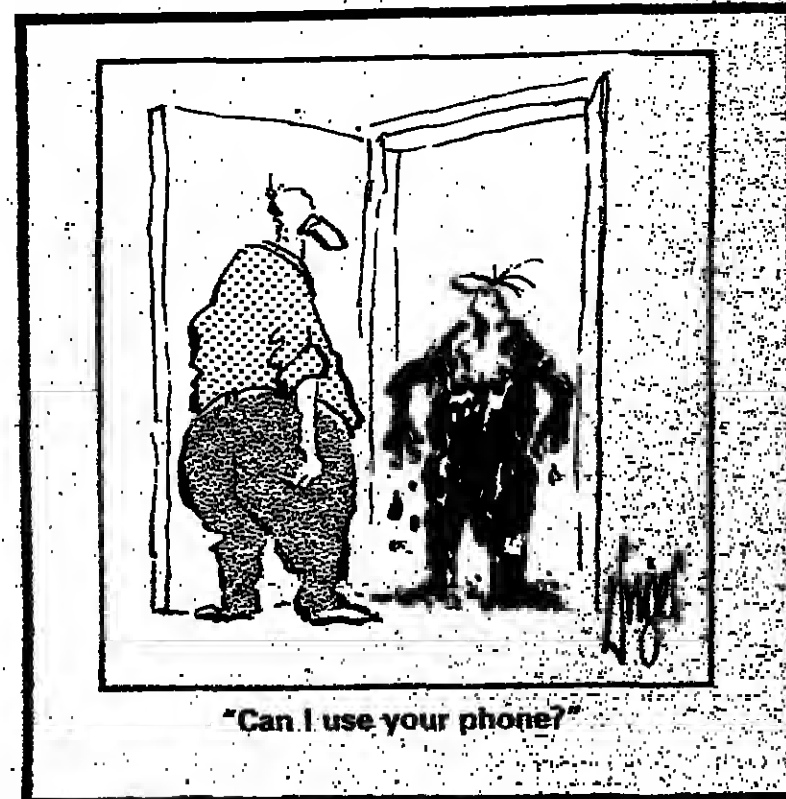
offered no challenge.

Declarer was unlucky to receive a spade lead. On any other lead declarer would have been able to concede two diamond tricks to the enemy and coast home in comfort. But now the defenders were a tempo ahead and, with only seven fast tricks, declarer had to develop two more tricks while surrendering the lead no more than once.

The first suit to tackle was hearts. If the suit broke evenly a long card would set up in dummy and an entry to the table could be forced in clubs. Unfortunately, East discarded a spade on the third heart, killing that hope.

South found an intriguing way to develop two extra tricks in the club suit. He led a low club and, when West followed with the five, declarer finessed the board's eight! If East took that trick with the king, declarer would have no problem collecting three club tricks, so the defender ducked.

To no avail. Declarer used that extra entry to run the queen of clubs. When that held South had three club tricks in the bank, together with the contract.

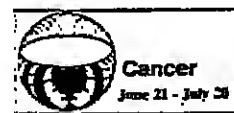


YOUR STARS



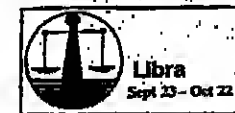
Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be easily pleased and are far too liable to be self-satisfied. Something that you have been postponing should not be delayed any longer. Take a bit more care about your appearance. Be less impatient.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will tend to mistay things and then waste time looking for them. Make sure you look after your health. You are more liable to make a mistake in your calculations so be on the lookout for it. Be merciful.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

Not everything will be to your liking but one or two things are much better than you had expected. Do not allow yourself to be distracted and do not become obsessed by thoughts of what remains to be done. Avoid overspending no less than avoiding a mean trend.



Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

You are more prone to have an accident so take special care. And make sure you do not leave any keys behind anywhere. Listen carefully to what others are saying. Be considerate.



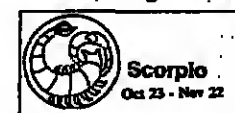
Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Not everything will be to your liking and you would be wrong to expect it to be. Everything is once again taking longer than you thought it would so there is less time at your disposal. You will tend to do too much all at once... Be more tidy.



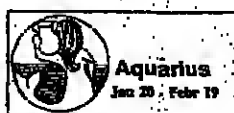
Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

You will be relieved because you have at last done something you have long intended to do. You will feel more sure of yourself but there is also a tendency to rely on guesswork which will have to be combated.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

You will have a surprise but it will not be altogether a pleasant one. You should not allow your thoughts to dwell too much on the past. And make sure you do not mistake what you would like to be for what is. Be sincere.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

You should not be too quick to trust someone; you do not know very well. There is a tendency to get into a bad habit and this should be resisted. You should beware of eating too many sweet things and avoid an excess of alcohol, too. Be firm.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be rather disinclined to do what has to be done so try to impose a little more self-discipline. Make sure you do not overtake yourself and take just a little more exercise. There is a tendency to make mistakes so watch out for them. Be methodical.



Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22

Something you had hoped would happen will, but the result is not at all what you had expected. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 24. There is a tendency to be resentful, try to overcome it. Avoid becoming gloomy. Be reasonable.



Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 21

You will be able to achieve closer harmony, but only if you make a few concessions. And do not think that making concessions is a sign of weakness. Try to avoid relying too much on guesswork. Be fair.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

If you smoke too heavily you will be sorry. You should not rely on others behaving just as you would wish them to. A good opportunity may be missed because it is not recognised until too late. Be less extravagant.



Jane Seymour

Fairy-tale princess hits the high notes

PROFESSIONAL romantic Jane Seymour, the self-styled principal fairy-tale princess, has snatched a plum part from the jaws of Joan Collins. And it's not quite what you might expect.

Actress Jane will have to bridge a credibility gap between her own well-hyped image of lovely, long-flowing locks and hemlines and the once-gauche, ugly duckling of opera she is going to play — the fiery, charismatic Maria Callas.

It's not hard to see why Joan wanted the part. The star who has given her own career a shot in the arm with tough Alexis in *Dynasty*, bought the rights to a biography of Callas by Greek writer Arianna Stassinopoulou two years ago.

She had hoped to turn the book, *The Woman Behind The Legend*, into a film, casting herself as the first actress ever to play the singer.

But Jane is getting first crack at the part in a blockbuster television mini-series about Aristotle Onassis who exploded into the singer's life when she was 36 and had been married for 12 years in Italian tycoon Giovanni Battista Meneghini.

Onassis broke Callas's heart when he married the former Jackie Kennedy, but then found it hard to stay away from the singer's side.

Good, meaty stuff for an actress... But the biography that covers her unhappy childhood and struggling early years is even more so and it's something Jane can identify with.

By her teens, Jane was plump, pimply and so convinced she was ugly, she ate for consolation as if supplies of food were about to be cut off.

But, at 29, she was so cut to the quick by a critic who said he could not tell her legs from an elephant's that she lost more than four stone in two years. And a new, glamorous swan emerged.

Jane has been regularly tipped for the part of Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With The Wind*. For many years there was talk of a remake with Jane as an obvious candidate. Those off-the-shoulder dresses could have been made for her. Not to mention the hordes of admiring men.

Now the trustees of the estate of the writer, the late Margaret Mitchell, have agreed to a sequel and Scarlett fever has broken out in Hollywood again.

A poll of thousands of people in the United States named Jane as the best successor to the original Scarlett, another English actress who got the part from 1,400 who were interviewed and 90 who were screen-tested.

Jane has not yet had a formal approach but the fact that she was chosen as so clear a favourite was flattering for the actress born Joyce Penelope Wilhelmina Frankenburg 36 years ago. And she would never pretend she has not worked for it.

In America she is rated megamega. Not bad for a girl who arrived in Hollywood 12 years ago with savings of £300, a six-week permit to stay, and an



Star: Jane with Roger Moore in the Bond film *Live And Let Die*, her movie breakthrough



Caring: Jane with her daughter Katie



Happy days: Jane ties the knot with her first husband Michael Attenborough

arrangement to share a flat and a diet of soy beans and chicken noodle soup with Jenny Agutter. It was Jeep Planner, who was to be her second husband, who had paid her fare. And once her feet had touched the tarmac, Jane did not waste a minute before getting herself professionally on the map.

She got a part in *McCloud* on television. Then she did *Copkins* and *Kings*. That won her an Emmy nomination. "And after that the offers rolled in," she says.

Few aspiring actresses would have accepted all that Jane did. She makes no bones about the fact that she has worked non-stop because she will do anything.

"I'm not fussy," she says. "Nor am I waiting for the big break."

One night he forgave her thinking that — a clutch of Oscars and Emmys apart — Jane has little left to wait for.

Three luxurious homes, an adoring third husband, two beautiful children, and two dogs she loves so dearly she cannot bear to be parted from them — it sounds like most people's idea of

bliss. Then there's the nanny, cook, secretary, groom, agent, and assorted other bodies who enable her to glide through her roles as businesswoman, actress, author, commentator, wife and mother as easily and unruffled as she goes through those soft-focus perfume ads.

Jane, born in London, got her first break as a *Beverly Hills* bride, *Solitaire*, in *Live And Let Die*. But while other early Bond birds' fame quickly faded, Jane was determined to cash in on hers. And she is convinced that any girl can succeed if she puts her mind to it.

The once-plump now ocaranorexic with the bone structure the camera really goes for, made a name for herself by changing her name. Told that people could not spell or pronounce the one she started out with, she opted for Jane Seymour.

She says: "My whole life turned around. My new name turned me into my dream of the person I wanted to be." The choice was inspired. For it gave people the feeling they had heard of her or met her somewhere

before. And her agent had the good sense not to point out that it was the third wife of Henry VIII they had actually heard of, not the shrewd aspiring actress who had stolen her name!

Jane, once a starlet in *The Onedin Line* on television, now owns a 34-roomed stately Tudor mansion near Bath, in England, a palatial home in Los Angeles and an exclusive Santa Barbara retreat.

The English house, St Catherine's Court, has wood-paneled library, croquet lawn, stables — Jane is a polo fiend — mellow leaded windows, with fresh flowers on white window sills everywhere you turn indoors, and ivy clinging to the walls outside.

Jane, with her tiny waist and feet, her pearly teeth and milky skin, looks perfectly cast as lady of the historic manor. And it has its uses. She has been photographed extensively in the house that dates back to 950 with 15th Century additions and 18 lush surrounding acres.

Jane and her American millionaire accountant husband, David Flynn, had been looking

for an English country home when fate took them to St Catherine's where she was filming. "We both fell in love with it on the spot," says Jane.

What she did not know was that, while she carried on working, he had gone off to find out who owned it and if they would sell. At the end of the day he could come back and report, "We can do it." It is believed to have set them back £350,000.

And that was only for starters. She says: "It was insane really. A completely impetuous move. The stone just crumbles in the rain." But it is a folly neither regrets. "When I am here, my worries just disappear," she says. There's another wood-paneled library on the other side of the Atlantic in another mansion Jane calls home — along with a harem of servants that turns into a cinema, an assortment of reception rooms and a walk-in wardrobe the size of a shop.

Jane is a clothes freak who gets it written into every contract that she gets to keep the wardrobe.

And just a few hours drive away is an American country retreat where Ronald and Nancy Reagan are neighbours and where Jane and David have been for dinner.

Jane says: "I adored Nancy. She believes in romance and the sanctity of the family just as I do. It's a classy area. No new money or ruff-ruff. That's why I like it."

The dedication to family life of the actress who took over the Ali McGraw role in the sequel to *Winds of War* came after a couple of false starts. She was married first to Michael Attenborough and second to Jeep Planner.

She met Michael when she was working on *Oh! What A Lovely War* with his father, Richard, and he was a university student. She says she was so impressed by his intelligence that she took to reading books on Marx and Lenin.

Eventually, on location for *Live And Let Die* in Jamaica, she realised she had cast herself as the little woman in his life and did not like it. But after the divorce she could not cope, either. So she took refuge in a doomed marriage again.

She and David have a daughter, Katie, five and a son, Sean, two. And it was who she was first pregnant with Sean that she was under the shower one day thinking how romantic her life was when a book was born.

She called it *Jane Seymour's Guide To Romantic Living* and preached in it that any woman could have romance if she put her heart into it.

Jane admitted to having a head start. Not every husband has served his wife a diamond ring in the bottom of a glass of champagne or hidden a new fur coat at the bottom of the rubbish bin for her to find.

So desperately did she want to be romantically different for her wedding night that she spent hours braiding flowers into her hair — and most of the night getting them out again!



Lovely: actress Jane Seymour



FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Urine test results were routine

QUESTION: During a routine visit to my doctor, my urine was checked. It was the test where the nurse dipped a strip of paper in the specimen, I was told that there was some protein in the urine, and that they would check it again at the next visit. At the next visit, however, nothing was found, and no explanation has been offered to me as to the cause of the protein on the first test. Was one of these tests in error? Do I have anything to worry about? Please try to explain this to me.

ANSWER: Let's start the answer with a bit of reassurance. You have nothing to worry about. The circumstances you describe are very frequent, and both tests were probably correct.

The method of testing used in your case was a dipstick test, here the paper had an area saturated with special chemical that is quite sensitive to even low concentrations of protein. Although it is quite reliable, other laboratory tests would be used to confirm the presence and quantity of protein in the urine. However, in view of the great frequency of positive tests found in many individuals, it is a common practice just to wait a bit and retest the urine at another time.

About one person out of 10 who come to emergency rooms for all sorts of problems are found to have a positive reaction with this test. Usually these results are only temporary, since protein can be found in the urine as the result of such things as exposure to cold, emotional stress, strenuous activity, seizures, and many other situations that do not reflect a disease of the kidney. When this is the case, it's called "functional proteinuria," and the usual procedure is merely to check the urine again on another visit to the doctor's office. When the second test is normal, the patient may be reassured.

While there are times when the cause of the first positive test may be apparent, most often (despite a carefully taken

history) the reason cannot be determined. This shouldn't be a cause for worry or anxiety. This is one time when you can relax after a positive test.

QUESTION: Here's a good one for you. At a recent business convention, a colleague I've met at these things over the years confessed to me that a recent hospitalization was for a fracture of his sexual member. I know that there is no bone there to break, and so find his story difficult to believe. What do you think really happened to him? I've got to know.

ANSWER: Control your curiosity, and become a believer. The penis contains two sponge-like tubes, the "corpora cavernosa" surrounded by a very strong fibrous tissues sheath, the "tunica albuginea." When blood fills and expands the corpora during sexual arousal, this sheath becomes tinner and more prone to injury. If some type of forceful trauma occurs during an erection, either during intercourse, or an accidental fall or unexpected blow direct to the erect penis, the tissues of the tunica and corpora can be torn. This condition is known as a fractured penis, and there are many articles in the medical literature describing it. Considered a medical emergency, it is extremely painful, as you might well imagine.

The treatment of choice is surgical, which is necessary to find the area of the tear, remove the accumulated clotted blood and repair the tear. When these tasks are accomplished in a timely fashion, the function of the organ is preserved. Hospitalization of two weeks is average and good results are achieved in about 75 percent of cases treated this way.

Dr Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in this column. Write to Dr Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

Your health

Is it time dentists stopped needling us?

THE image of dentists as figures in white coats waiting to run your day with unbearable pain could soon be a thing of the past... thanks to a new invention.

As much as half of the population are said to be afraid to visit their dentist for fear of the dread injection. But a new pain-free method has been developed to numb a patient's teeth without the use of a needle. Instead, an electronic current passes through the patient's gum.

One of the few practitioners in Britain to offer the Electronic Dental Anaesthetic is Melvyn Sharpe, who believes the new method will encourage more people to face their date with dentistry.

He told me: "I am very enthusiastic about this method because there are so many people who are still frightened of us. And in this day and age, that shouldn't be."

Many people are afraid of visiting their dentist because they do not like needles. But this method uses two tiny electrodes instead. When they are switched on, the current blocks the pain signals to the brain.

"It also liberates a chemical that increases a person's pain threshold so the patient should not feel anything."

As he showed me the slimline EDA unit in his surgery in Hove, East Sussex, Melvyn explained: "It is only powered by two small torch batteries. You take the two electrodes which are smaller than postage stamps, and you stick them to the gum below the teeth you are working on."

"You then switch on the machine and, when the patient is experiencing a very slight tingling sensation from the electric current, you set the machine at that level."

"Then you give the patient a remote hand-control. And when you start work on the teeth, the patient can increase the intensity of the current himself if he is experiencing any discomfort."

"This reassures the patient. And because the machine is set to an individual's pain threshold, he can



Hove dentist Melvyn Sharpe

Patients wouldn't be terrified of the figure in the white coat if every surgery used the EDA method, says Melvyn Sharpe. He tells CLAIRE LOCKHART about his own painless practice.

increase the intensity but cannot accidentally lower it or turn off the anaesthetic."

He added: "When the machine is turned off, there is no lingering numbness and the patient can talk and eat normally."

The EDA was developed in America by a Briton, Professor Leon Silverstone, about six years ago and has been available here for about a year. It is not widely used yet and Melvyn is among the 100 dentists in Britain who offer this pain-free alternative to a needle.

Melvyn, 51, explained: "Even if this method gets a patient over a phobia about needles, it's well worth it. And there's no lasting numbness which you would have after a local anaesthetic injection."

"A normal injection numbs the lip for two or three hours and the patient can't speak properly, which can be embarrassing if the patient is going back to work after the dental appointment."

"With EDA, there is no discomfort and, once you take the electrodes out the numbness disappears."

He told me: "You can use EDA for everything fillings, extractions — and can use it in conjunction with local anaesthetic."

The £2,000 EDA system, called Ultra-Calm, has already attracted more patients to Melvyn's surgery. He said: "A man came to me a couple of days ago. He had not been to a dentist for five years. And he had been going around in pain for all that time. He was absolutely terrified of the needle and had been doping himself with pills and tablets."

"He came to me after hearing about EDA and let me do the treatment to him. I took out live roots and three very broken-down teeth."

"I gave him an injection on top of the Electronic Dental Anaesthetic and he didn't even realise I had given him an injection. That's the beauty of EDA — you can cause numbness and also give an injection on top of that."

"I've used it on about 30 patients and the

results have been very good. But you can't use it on pregnant women, people with a heart condition or anyone who has a pacemaker."

The anaesthetic is estimated to work on about 90 per cent of patients.

But Melvyn, who has been a dentist for 27 years, warned: "Don't think it is going to work on every patient. Local anaesthetic with an injection doesn't work on all patients either. Occasionally someone experiences some discomfort."

Melvyn looks forward to a day when EDA will replace painful injections. "I'm getting more new patients as a result of people hearing about EDA. If fact I've had 10 new patients this week."

He likes to keep up to date with all the modern techniques and equipment. But he admitted: "I feel that we as a profession, generally, have failed in giving information to the general public on what can be done in dentistry today."

"We are still frowned upon as dentists. People are frightened of us. There are 50 per cent of the general public who will not go to see a dentist either because of a bad experience years ago, or what they hear from friends, or what they think is going to happen."

"This is why I have become so enthusiastic about EDA."

"I hope there will be a time in the very near future when dentists are no longer frightening. I don't want people to walk on the other side of the road when they see me coming along the street. I would hope patients would come along to the surgery because they want to have some treatment."

And many do. For while Melvyn's wife Beryl treats women who come to her beauty clinic above the surgery, Melvyn believes people should beautifully their teeth, too.

"Cosmetic dentistry has improved tremendously," he said. "People can change their smile and their whole appearance."



Dentist Melvyn Sharpe tries out the Electronic Dental Anaesthetic on wife Beryl

Where years ago we did what is known as a crown, which involves cutting down a tooth to get a cap or a crown to go over the tooth, we can now do veneering on teeth which means you don't have to cut the tooth right down anymore — you just wear the tooth down a little.

"So it is free of decay and perfectly healthy and the only reason we might do something is to improve the appearance of it... tooth or close a gap or make a dirty looking tooth whiter."

Melvyn showed me a box of veneers which are individual tooth-spaced enamel covers which look very much like false finger-nails.

He explained: "The tooth is worn down very slightly. No injection is needed and very little drilling. A false veneer is then made for the tooth and bonded on to the enamel of the tooth. It really does change a patient's whole appearance and, of course, their confidence."

West Indies captain denies trying to intimidate umpire in fourth Test

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 10. (Reuters) West Indies captain Viv Richards has denied trying to intimidate umpire Lloyd Barker on the fourth day of the fourth cricket Test against England yesterday.

England number three Rob Bailey was given out caught behind after Richards had raced down the pitch waving his arms in the air. "I heard a noise," Richards said yesterday. "My little jig is very ceremonial and I was hoping to celebrate getting the batsman out."

"I was not trying to pressurise the umpire and I believe he made the right decision," Barker said. "I'm not allowing to comment on specific decisions. But to suggest there was any bullying is wrong. Viv appeals that way all the time and no one accuses me, whether or not he is the West Indian captain."

England, 1-0 in the series, are in deep trouble at 15 for three in their second innings, chasing 356 to win. They will need major contributions from skipper Allan Lamb and Robin Smith, who thwarted the West Indies bowlers for 64 overs in a 193-run fourth wicket stand in the first innings, if they are to preserve their lead.

The touring team received some consolation yesterday rest day when they learned that Carlisle Best, who hammered 164 in the first innings here, will miss the fifth Test.

Best injured his left thumb while fielding in England's first innings and was reported to be suffering from a hairline fracture.

England manager Micki Stewart said that if the pitch did not deteriorate further, the touring team had a good chance of holding out for a draw.

RUGBY

Nomads win twice in Egypt

THIS weekend saw Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads travel to Egypt to play their first ever fixture against Cairo Rugby Club. The Thursday evening event saw Kuwait play a team from H.M.S. Broadwood. The navy team took the initiative and sped into a 1-0 lead.

Signs looked really ominous when it was necessary to play Steve Hill at fly half. However, Kuwait kept their heads and came back with a mixture of forward power and slick back moves which had the Navy all at sea. By half-time tries from Laurent Pouquet and Steve Hill put Kuwait into a 16-10 lead.

The second half saw the same combination of scorers extending the Nomads lead. The pack dominated the scrum where the ageless Ken Best had his best ever game at hooker. Phil Quinn and John McDevitt moved mountains and allowed no clean ball for the Navy scrum half. When the Navy began to run at Kuwait they were met by resolute tackling especially by Shipley.

The tackle of the game however must be the bootcruncher produced by Terry McFarlane on his opposite number. You could honestly feel the pyramids shudder! Kuwait ran out worthy winners by 33-10.

On Friday, Kuwait put out a strong team to meet the challenge of Cairo and thankfully saw Hill back in the pack. Much had been said the previous evening of the talents of Cairo and the 10.00 am kick off appeared to be doing no favours for Kuwait. Yet within ten minutes of the start the dynamic Nomads backrow of Tony Sole and the Hill brothers, Gary and Steven, had Cairo in tatters. Two splendid drives by the pack allowed S-Hill to score the first two tries. The younger brother was not to be deceived as he drove round the front of the lineout to score in the corner. Jeff Gutteridge had a splendid game and set up ball time and again for the backs to use. Winger Dave Ball had an impressive game and proved a real handful for the opposition.

The star of the Nomads backs was Laurent Pouquet who ran from anywhere and everywhere. The Gallic flair was in much evidence and he thoroughly deserved his two tries. However, the try of the game award must go to the winger Dave Cross. 20 metres from the line and faced with 5 opponents Cross drove twisted, turned, spun and finally dived over for a spectacular score. His growing rugby skill was also shown by the inch perfect pass he delivered to S Hill who managed to complete his hat trick.

The goal kicking of Mark Shipley and his direction from fly half enabled Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads to record a 40-0 rout.

Thus Kuwait had an impressive first visit to Cairo and hope to send a team to take part in the ten-a-side tournament being held there next September.

'United German team possible for 1992 Games'

BONN, April 10. (Reuters) West Germany's government believes a united German team could compete at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, whose portfolio includes sport, said yesterday the march conservative election victory in East Germany had paved the way for quick political unification which could bring the two powerful sporting worlds together.

"That would mean a joint German team, perhaps even at the 1992 Olympic Games," Schäuble said during a visit to the West German Olympic Training Centre in Tauberscheim.

East and West Germany entered combined teams at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics before competing separately for the first time in 1968.

Red Sox rout Tigers in opener

American baseball season starts



Barry Larkin (in the air) took Reds to victory over Astros

BOSTON, April 10, (AP) The new season looked just like the old one at Fenway Park. Wade Boggs got three hits, Roger Clemens won and the Detroit Tigers lost.

Opening day, delayed for only the second time in history, finally came and the Boston Red Sox began in style, beating Detroit 5-2 yesterday in the first game of the year.

Boggs got the first hit of the season and finished 3-for-4 with a walk. His leadoff single in the first inning helped set up Dwight Evans' three-run double off Jack Morris, and Boggs singled home a run in the second.

Clemens held the Tigers hitless until Tony Phillips singled to start the sixth inning, and allowed three hits, struck out five and walked two. He retired the first two batters in the seventh and then left the game after throwing 101 pitches.

White Sox 2, Brewers 1
In Chicago, the White Sox opened their final season at 80-year-old Comiskey Park with a victory, beating the Milwaukee Brewers 2-1 on Scott Fletcher's sacrifice fly in the seventh inning.

The White Sox, who lost their first game at Comiskey 2-0 to the St. Louis Browns in 1910, will move across the street to a new stadium next year. A crowd of 40,000 at the 43,931-seat ballpark sat through a 42-minute rain delay at the start of the game and saw the White Sox win.

With the score tied at 1, Robin Ventura drew a leadoff walk

from lower Tony Fossas in the seventh. Sammy Sosa bunted, and Ventura beat first baseman Greg Brundage's throw to second.

After Ozie Guillen hunted into a foulcut at third, Lance Johnson's infield hit loaded the bases. Fletcher followed with his go-ahead sacrifice fly.

Orioles 7, Royals 6
Sam Horn, signed as a low-priced free agent, hit a pair of three-run homers and the Baltimore Orioles shipped past the Royals in Kansas City 7-6 in 11 innings on right fielder Danny Tartabull's error.

Horn, who did not join the Orioles until the last five days of spring training, set a team record with his six RBIs in an opener. He connected in the second inning off Bret Saberhagen and tied it at 6 in the eighth with a blast off Steve Furr.

Joe Osulak singled with two out in the 11th off Jeff Montgomery. Osulak was running as Cal Ripken singled to right and slid home when Tartabull, who had hit a single and a two-run homer, bobbled the ball.

Cardinals 6, Expos 5
Willie McGee's two-run double in the ninth sent the game to extra innings and his run-scoring single in the 11th gave the St. Louis Cardinals a 6-5 victory over the Montreal Expos in the season opener last night.

Mitt Thompson led off the 11th with a walk off Mark Gardner and advanced on a sacrifice before McGee lined a soft single to centre.

In the ninth, Thompson drew a one-out walk from Tim Burke and Vince Coleman and McGee had consecutive doubles. After Pedro Guerrero drew an intentional walk with two outs, Terry Pendleton, who went 3-for-5, grounded out.

Winner Ken Dayley, the sixth Cardinal pitcher, worked 1 2-3 scoreless innings.

Reds 8, Astros 4
Barry Larkin tripled with the bases loaded off reliever Charlie Kerfeld in the 11th inning, giving the Cincinnati Reds and new manager Lou Piniella an 8-4 victory over the Houston Astros.

Kerfeld walked Joe Oliver to start the inning and Hal Morris followed with a single. After a sacrifice by Ron Oester, Chris Sabo was intentionally walked and former Astro Billy Hatcher struck out.

Rangers 4, Blue Jays 2
Nolan Ryan held Toronto hitless for five innings and left after throwing 90 pitches, getting his 290th career victory last night as the Texas Rangers beat the Blue Jays 4-2.

Results			
American League			
Red Sox	5	Tigers	2
White Sox	2	Brewers	1
Orioles	7	Royals	6
Mariners	7	Angels	4
Rangers	4	Blue Jays	2
Athletics	8	Twins	3
National League			
Dodgers	4	Padres	2
Pirates	12	Mets	5
Cardinals	6	Expos	5
Reds	8	Astros	4
Phillies	Cubs	rained out	



The winners with their prizes

April Medal held

Chung gets best gross

THE Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club on Friday, held the April Medal contest, which is the last major competition of the season that would count towards the club championship.

The competition was tense and exciting as most of the club's leading golfers were looking for a good round to boost their position in the overall Club championship.

K.H. Chung (6) was the most consistent on this day when he turned in a score of 74 gross that included a two under par 35 on the back nine holes. Others in contention were Adnan Assaf, Suhail Gidwani, Peter Van Thiel and Peter Benham. Adnan Assaf was not to be denied a trophy on this day when his drive landed 295 yards down the fairway to win the longest drive for men. For the ladies Monique de Meuron was the winner with 230-yards long shot. Beat Weiland, manager, Swiss Air, was a first time winner in the nearest to the pin competition when his tee shot was a mere 60 centimeters from the hole.

The full results of the competition were as follows:

Gross winner	: K.H. Chung (6)	: 74
Division "A" winner	: Peter Van Thiel (12)	: 68
	: K.H. Chung (6)	: 68
	: S. Gidwani (8)	: 69
Division "B" winner	: Y.K. Lee (19)	: 68
	: A. Brero (19)	: 69
	: D.R. Jhaog (18)	: 70
Division "C" winner	: K.W. Kim (22)	: 66
	: K. Kwon Lee (21)	: 68
	: P. Briggs (21)	: 68

Waters splits with trainer

SYDNEY, Australia, April 10. (AP) Australian boxer Guy Waters said today he had split with his father-trainer, less than three weeks before he is to challenge American Virgil Hill for the World Boxing Association light-heavyweight title.

Waters, 12-1-1 and the Commonwealth title, said he would be trained by Johnny Lewis and American Ed Weichers for his

fight against the unbeaten Hill, which is scheduled April 28 in Las Vegas.

Lewis trains World Boxing Council featherweight champion Jeff Fenech and previously handled World Boxing Council light-heavy champion Jeff Harding.

Guy Waters said he was "relieved" to no longer be under his father, CEC Waters.

Soviets to play for Barbarians

LONDON, April 10. (Reuters) The Barbarians Invitational Rugby Union side has included two Soviet players in their squad, announced yesterday, for their traditional Easter fixtures.

Skipper and fullback Igor Mironov and number eight Alexander Tikhonov, who both made a big impact on the Soviet Union's tour of England earlier this season, are two of 13 international players in the Barbarians' 26-man squad for matches against Welsh club sides Cardiff and Swansea.

\$1.6 million deal

LONDON, April 10. (Reuters) Brian Steve Davis, the world's number one-ranked snooker player, signed a £1 million (\$1.6 million) five-year sponsorship deal with a Brewery yesterday.

Waldner rediscovers best form

Sweden reach European semifinals

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 10. (Reuters) Title-holders Sweden made sure of reaching the European table tennis semifinals when world singles champion Jan-Ove Waldner rediscovered his best form after a bad start yesterday.

With one tie left to play, the unbeaten Swedes were already sure to winning Group B in the top division as they sought their ninth European title.

Waldner, whose form has been patchy since he won the world title in Dortmund a year ago, got off to a bad start, losing to Yugoslav Zorao Kalinic in Sweden's first engagement of the day.

But Waldner came back to beat Ilja Lupulesku and Zoran Primorac, to help world team champions Sweden win 5-2.

The same score settled Sweden's evening

tie against Czechoslovakia with Waldner winning both his matches against Petr Korbel and Jiri Plesk.

"I had a bad start, which was unnecessary, but four wins made it a satisfactory day," said Waldner, who has recovered from a slight hand injury.

Czech Glenn Ostl rested European singles champion Mikael Appelgren and world silver medalist Jorgen Persson against Czechoslovakia, saying both were tired after a late and long match against France yesterday.

"It is very good for us to know that we have enough good players to let some sit on the bench and relax," said Ostl, who employed Olympic medalist Erik Lindh and championship debutant Peter Karlsson

instead. West Germany took over at the top of group "A" by beating 1988 world silver medalist England 5-2.

English national champion Alan Cooke kept his team's hopes alive by beating Stefan Fetzner for 4-2 but then Joerg Rosskopf, who won the world doubles title with Fetzner, beat Carl Preen in three games.

Defending women's champions the Soviet Union were in trouble after losing to both France and Hungary in one day.

The Soviet team, feeling the absence of European singles champion Liuba Bulatova, lost by 3-1 both times. Hungary, led by in-form European top 12 winner Gabriella Wirth, remained unbeaten in Group A.

Marlboro Safari Rally: one big special stage

KENYA. The cradle of mankind. The glorious diversity of the country is legend, from the snow capped peaks of Mount Kenya to the sun-baked white sand beaches of the Indian Ocean. It is a land where man is confronted by extremes, challenged by its vastness, humbled by simply miles and miles of Africa.

In this environment some 37 years ago, an event which was to become a motorsport legend was born, the Marlboro Safari Rally. Like many good ideas, the Safari Rally had simple beginnings: Three motorist enthusiasts enjoying a social evening at the Limuru Club were discussing their exploits. Eric Cecil, then chairman of the Competition Committee of the Automobile Association of East Africa had organised Kenya's first motor rally, the 'Round the Mountain Trail', around Mount Kenya. His cousin, Neil Vincent, was unimpressed.

"I can't be bothered running round in circles, but if you would like to organise an event wherein we get into our cars, slam the door and go half way across Africa and back and the first car home is winner, then I will enter!"

A few months later, the energetic Cecil was sitting in an aeroplane commenting on the progress of the pioneer event, the 1953 Coronation Safari, a tribute to the new British monarch. Its sponsor, the East African Standard newspaper, heralded it thus:

"Up and down, up and down they will go, from sea level and sanity to the rarified atmosphere of close on 10,000 feet - enough to make a carbuter specialist tear his hair out by the roots and ask for an immediate transfer to the tractor department. Fortissimo must be the goal,



Kankkunen (left) looks forward to the event

piano the cautionary watchword and a blend of cool courage and calculated discretion the overall requirement for success."

The first Safari Rally encompassed three countries, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (then Tanganyika), with starting points in all three capital cities and the finish in Nairobi. Cars were restricted to standard production touring saloons available for sale in East Africa, with classes determined by price.

"And nothing save tuning, driving skill and stamina of man and vehicle will count, for nothing to boost performance may be added to competing vehicles."

Invested

It seems a far cry from the highly sophisticated technology which is invested in today's Marlboro Safari Rally.

But the land has not changed and the spirit of adventure and dedication which imbued those pioneers in one of the greatest adventures in motor sport remains today. "The Safari is all one big



Menia won the rally a record four times

special stage!" grins reigning World Champion Miki Biasion, winner of the event for the past two years. "You know, the first time I came to Kenya, I did not know what to expect. For sure, at home in Italy, you see the tourist pictures of all the wild animals and the lovely beaches and the coast. But then, as we landed at the airport, I saw all these animals which seemed to be grazing on the runway and then someone told me they had a giraffe eating one of their trees that morning in a suburb of Nairobi! I couldn't believe it. But then we went out on the route and we saw for ourselves what a big beautiful country it is. And we realised what a very special event the Safari is."

Biasion's enthusiasm is mirrored by nearly all of the world's greatest rally-drivers. Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard has won the event three times and he keeps coming back for more.

"Kenya is like a second home to me now. Sometimes in testing we take time to visit a game reserve. And who can forget the first time you are sitting after a good dinner in the light of a blazing log fire and hear a lion 'coughing' just the other side of the fence. Or watching the sun rise over Mount Kilimanjaro with a herd of elephant crossing the road in front of you."

Waldegard is normally a man of few words but his deep affection for Kenya is obvious. Finland's Markku Alen, too, has grown to love the country.

"You know," he chuckles, "first time I came I was not too sure because I don't like snakes and creepy crawlies! But then I realised what an amazing country, so much to see. One moment you are driving through these incredible bright green tea plantations, next you are in the middle of a thick forest, next you are driving over 'stairs' up a mountain, then you are stuck in a mud hole so deep you cannot even open the car doors."

Kenya's rainy season always produces a plethora of stories from Safari folk. "One year I was stuck," recalls Gunnar Palm (who navigated Hannu Mikkola to victory in 1972). "It was some where near Tsavo, so Bengt (Soderstrom) and I decided that we didn't really want to spend the night in the car so we got out and walked for something like two hours until we came to the rest halt. We couldn't understand why everyone looked at us in horror when we told the story - until they told us that we had just come right through the middle of an area which is famous for its lions!"

A lion also nearly ended the hopes of Kenya's Vic Preston Jr on the 1989 event.

"We broke down on the last leg," he grimaces, "but, unfortunately a lion strolled out of the bush and lay down and started to sun itself in front of the car. It wouldn't go away! Somebody suggested over the radio that maybe it would move if I started to sing! Eventually it went..."

Such stories are the very stuff of the Safari. Today's event is now confined within the borders of Kenya and the route is restricted to some 4,000 kilometres. But

the challenge is just the same.

"The Safari is won by minutes, by hours even," comments Mike Doughty, a record four-time winner with Shekhar Mehta at the beginning of the last decade. "In Europe, where rallies are won by seconds, the events take place over closed stages. Here, we run on the open road, which is why the event takes place at Easter, when there is much less traffic. The Kenyans flock to watch the rally cars and people like Bjorn Waldegard are known even in the tiniest village."

Practice for the five-day Safari takes drivers and their navigators to the furthest corners of the country. Today, Kenya boasts a fine network of top class hotels and lodges, both in Nairobi and in the game parks for which it is world famous. The super stars of the rally world can relax in comfort after a hard day's work inside a car where temperatures can reach 75 degrees!

"I really look forward to the Safari," smiles Juba Kankkunen, the youngest ever winner of the rally in 1985. "It is so very different and it is never boring. And I can even play golf there!"

As well as renowned beaches, Kenya boasts some fine golf courses and the top drivers make a bee-line for them whenever their hectic schedule allows. But it is the Safari itself which draws the world's top drivers back year after year to Kenya.

"A battle against time, a fight against fatigue and an Homerian tussle with elemental forces that would have forced those less stout of heart to cry 'Enough, enough!' It was immense."

Thus the East African Standard described that epic first Safari in 1953. Like Kenya itself, the Marlboro Safari Rally remains 'immense'.

Lakers blast Mavericks for ninth time

INGLEWOOD, California, April 10. (AP) Magic Johnson scored a season-high 38 points, including a halfcourt shot at the end of the first half, as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks for the ninth straight time with a 113-106 victory last night.

The Lakers, trying to claim the NBA's best record and the homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs for the third time in four seasons, used their seventh consecutive triumph to improve their record to 58-17 and their lead over defending League champion Detroit Pistons to four games.

Rolando Blackman scored 19 points for the Mavericks. Teammate Roy Tarpley sat out the second game of a two-game suspension from coach Richie Adubato for missing Friday's practice. Earlier in the day, Tarpley tested negative for cocaine and alcohol use.

Kings 108, SuperSonics 105
Antoine Carr and Vinnie Del Negro each made two free throws in the final 11 seconds as Sacramento snapped a seven-game losing streak yesterday with a 106-105 victory over Seattle.

The loss cut Seattle's lead over Houston for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference to a half-game.

Rodney McCray's 22-foot jumper with 1:09 left gave the Kings a 102-97 lead. Dale Ellis, who scored 33 points and set a SuperSonics record with six 3-pointers, then scored to make it 102-99.

Suns 119, Jazz 115
Kevin Johnson scored nine of his 37 points in overtime and Tom Chambers had 36 as the Phoenix Suns made an NBA Record 61 free throws in a 119-115 victory over the Utah Jazz last night.

The Suns broke the record of 60, set by Washington against New York on Nov. 13, 1987. They attempted 80 free throws, the second-highest total ever.

Chambers sank three free throws in the final 25 seconds of overtime to clinch the victory. The Suns' 33rd in 37 home games against the Jazz franchise.

SPORTS

Graf back, feeling invincible again

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, April 10. (AP) Steffi Graf is back and feeling invincible again.

The world's top-ranked women's tennis player, sidelined since February with a broken thumb, is returning to competition this week in the Bausch and Lomb Championships.

And while she said she doesn't feel pressure to win the tournament, she makes it clear she won't be satisfied with anything less than her first title at Amelia Island since 1987.

"If there was no way I felt I could win, I wouldn't get in the tournament," said Graf, who lost to Gabriela Sabatini in the

semifinals at Amelia Island in 1988 and again in a three-set final last year.

"If I got into a tournament, I'm preparing to do the best I can," she added.

Her record since moving into the No 1 ranking in August 1987 reflects her ability to back her words, and she sees no

reason why a skiing accident, should change anything.

Graf, who originally planned to launch her comeback in Hamburg, West Germany, later this month, has won eight of the last nine Grand Slam tournaments and is aiming for full recovery before the French Open in May.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Soccer hooligans

ROME, April 10. (Reuters) Soccer hooligans will be identified in advance and stopped at Italy's frontiers before the World Cup soccer finals this summer, a senior Interior Ministry official said in an interview yesterday. "We will be able to kick out the undesirables at the border for reasons of public order," Giancarlo Ruffino, the ministry's under-secretary, told the Rome daily Il Tempo.

TVs clash

LONDON, April 10. (UPI) The English FA Cup replay between Second Division Oldham Athletic and Manchester United set for Wednesday, has caused fixture scheduling chaos for TV chiefs and the soccer authorities, according to reports yesterday. The television companies face their first clash of live soccer games as BBC's coverage of the second Oldham-Manchester match goes out at the same time as ITV televises the Arsenal-Aston Villa League game.

Badminton manager

LONDON, April 10. (UPI) The English Badminton Association will not renew the contract of England's badminton international team manager Paul Whetall which expires at the end of April, the association announced yesterday.

\$40,000 lost

CAIRO, April 10. (UPI) Egypt's leading soccer team Al Ahly lost \$40,000 in gate takings Saturday because soccer fans decided to watch a popular soap opera on television instead of heading for the team's downtown Cairo ground, the daily Al Wafd reported yesterday.

Italian plans

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 10. (UPI) Fifa secretary-general Joseph S. Blatter commended the Italian Soccer Federation for its plans to introduce professional referees beginning with the 1992 season.

Warmuz injured

MARSEILLE, France, April 10. (UPI) Guillaume Warmuz, the 19-year-old Olympic star, suffered a head injury in the second leg of the European Champion's Cup semifinal at the Stade de France on Saturday.

Fine reduced

BERN, Switzerland, April 10. (UPI) French soccer club AS Nancy had a \$50,000 Swiss franc (\$35,000) fine for violating advertising regulations on players' clothing reduced to \$5,000 Swiss francs (\$3,400) by the UEFA appeals committee yesterday.

Coach fired

BONN, April 10. (UPI) West German soccer club FC Neuremberg fired its coach Hermann Gerland yesterday after a controversial interview with him appeared in a West German magazine.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, April 10. (Reuters) Results of first-round National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoff games played yesterday: Patrick Division, New York Islanders 4, New York Rangers 3 (2 OT); (Rangers lead best-of-seven series 2-1); New Jersey Devils 2, Washington Capitals 1; (Devils lead best-of-seven series 2-1); Adams Division: Hartford Whalers 5, Boston Bruins 3; (Whalers lead best-of-seven series 2-1); Montreal Canadiens 2, Buffalo Sabres 1 (OT); (Canadiens lead best-of-seven series 2-1).

\$19m contract

NEW YORK, April 10. (Reuters) New York Yankees first baseman Don Mattingly became the highest paid player in baseball history yesterday when he agreed to a five-year contract extension worth an estimated \$19 million.

Bills quarterback

BUFFALO, New York, April 10. (AP) Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly has no intention of offering a settlement to a woman who claims she was injured when he threw a beer balloon at her during a picnic, according to Kelly's attorney.

Drug test

DALLAS, April 10. (AP) Roy Tarpley of the Dallas Mavericks showed no evidence of drugs or alcohol in his system in test results made available yesterday, and he will be allowed to rejoin the National Basketball Association team. The team had suspended Tarpley after he missed a workout Friday.

Golf rankings

LONDON, April 10. (Reuters) Britain's Nick Faldo, winner of the US Masters title for the second successive year, has moved closer to the world golf rankings issued yesterday. American Ray Floyd, loser to Faldo in a playoff, makes a return to the top 50 in 44th place.

Chang tames Jones

Cash upset in first round

TOKYO, April 10. (AP) Michael Chang overcame a blustery wind today to beat fellow American Kelly Jones 1-6, 6-0, 6-1 in the second round of men's

singles in the Japan Open tennis tournament.

Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, said the winds bothered him in the first set but "in the

second set I started hitting the ball late, allowing me more room and time to hit the ball."

He said the injury to his hip which he sustained in early December had totally cleared up. Jones, ranked 113th in the world, got off to a good start, winning the first game of the first set without losing a point.

In the second set, Chang, No. 9 in the world, broke the second game and again broke the fourth at love. Chang then broke the sixth game.

Chang said Jones began making more errors in the second set. In the third set, Jones led the first game 30-0 but Chang fired an ace, his third of the day, and then took the game.

After leading the set 5-1, Chang led 40-0 for the match point but hit a volley wide. After a deuce he wrapped up the game at Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum in 82 minutes.

The Chang-Jones match was the day's only second-round match. Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia meets Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka, and second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden plays American Leif Shiras in second-round matches tomorrow.

In men's singles first-round matches today, American Paul Chamberlin needed a first-set tie-break before downing Gilad Bloom of Israel 7-6 (15-13), 7-5.

Anders Jarryd of Sweden beat American Dan Cassidy 6-0, 6-3.

In women's first-round matches, top-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden beat Jo Durie of Britain 6-4, 6-4 but second-seeded Anne Minier of Australia and third-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States both lost their matches.

Minter was beaten by American Louise Allen 6-4, 6-4 and McNeil lost to American compatriot Ann Henricksson 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5.

Fifth-seeded Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand beat Australian Louise Field 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Japan's Kimiko Date crushed American Jo-Anne Faull 6-0, 6-0.

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash was beaten by fellow Australian Mark Kratzmann 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4 in the first round yesterday.

Wild card Cash, playing his second tournament since returning from serious injury and currently ranked 617 in the world, looked sluggish in the first set.



Chang reaches 2nd round

Langrova to face Graf

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 10. (Reuters) Petra Langrova of Czechoslovakia won her first-round match at the \$350,000 Amelia Island Women's Open yesterday and, with it, the right to play No. 1-ranked Steffi Graf of West Germany.

Langrova is not optimistic. After despatching qualifier Penny Barg-Mager of the US 6-0, 6-0 in 47 minutes, Langrova said she had no chance to beat Graf, who is playing her first tournament since suffering a fractured thumb on February 6 in a skiing accident.

"I thought I would win my first match," said Langrova, ranked No. 65 in the world. "Now it's Steffi. What can you do? Many of the players are scared of her before they walk on the court."

Would Langrova be surprised if Graf won the tournament after a two-month absence from the tour?

"She has already won this tournament," said Langrova, emphasizing her confidence in Graf's ability. "It will be the same Steffi."

Meanwhile, the five seeded players in action all advanced through first-round matches.

Only No. 14, Cathy Caverzasio of Italy, had trouble.

Caverzasio fought off two match points and defeated Beverly Bowes of the United States 2-6, 1-7, 6-8 (6-1).

Caverzasio twice served for the match in the third

set, but Bowes broke her each time and forced a tiebreak.

Bowes led 6-4 in the tiebreak, then committed three straight forehand errors to give Caverzasio a match point. After a furious baseline rally, Caverzasio ended it with a forehand winner.

"I think she (Bowes) was nervous on the match points she had," Caverzasio said. "I was confident, I was running crazy, trying to put the ball in the court. On the big points, I think I played a little better."

Ninth-seeded Leila Mekshi of the Soviet Union defeated Niurke Sudepe of Japan 6-2, 6-2.

Tenth-seeded Isabel Cueto of West Germany downed Patricia Tarabini of Argentina 6-4, 6-2.

Twelfth-seeded Linda Ferrando of Italy beat Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden 6-3, 6-3.

No. 13 Andrea Temesvari of Hungary dropped Elena Pampoulova of Bulgaria 7-5, 7-5.

In a mild surprise, qualifier Veronika Martinek of West Germany defeated Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-3. Rajchrtova made the semifinals at Hilton Head, South Carolina, last week, losing to eventual champion Martina Navratilova.

Along with Graf, second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez of Spain, fourth-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States and fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union were to play their opening matches today.

UEFA upholds Donadoni ban

BERN, Switzerland, April 10. (UPI) The UEFA appeals committee yesterday upheld a decision to ban AC Milan's Roberto Donadoni for three UEFA-sanctioned matches after he was sent off in the second leg of the European Champion's Cup quarterfinal against KV Mechelen of Belgium.

Donadoni was shown the red card for punching Geert Defters of KV Mechelen in the 100th minute of the match, played March 21.

The five member committee, chaired by Leon Straetsele of Switzerland, heard testimony from the referee, a linesman and Donadoni himself, before it "rejected the appeal, but maintained the right to appeal," and ordered AC Milan to pay 12,000 Swiss francs (\$8,000) in costs.

The appeals committee upheld the three match suspension, which covers the two legs of the Champion's Cup semifinal and the final (if Milan defeats Bayern Munich in the semi).

"The behaviour of the player Defters was without doubt the cause of Donadoni's reaction but that did not give him the right to punch back in reprisal," the ruling said.



Capriati: legend-in-the-making?

Capriati plays very fast: Navratilova

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, April 10. (AP) Jennifer Capriati knows only one speed: all out.

"She doesn't let you relax," said Martina Navratilova, who defeated Capriati 6-2, 6-4 in the finals of the Family Circle Magazine Cup.

"There's no resting point. She plays very fast. I had to slow her down. I like to play pretty fast myself. But, man, she just walks up there and starts serving. I said, 'wait a minute.'"

Capriati's rise in the tennis world mirrors her play on the court. A month after turning pro, the 14-year-old is ranked 25th in the world and has reached the finals in two of the three tournaments in which she has played.

"I guess that's pretty good," Capriati said of her ranking. "It would have been more if I would have won.... O'm just really excited. It shows me I can do it, I can be up there. I'm just happy I could get up that far."

The Florida eighth-grader has a match record of 13-3 as a pro and, after losing to the second-ranked Navratilova, is 3-2 against players in the world's top 10.

No less an authority than Chris Evert, who has known Capriati for 10 years, feels the teenager is America's best future hope on the Women's Tour.

"Hearing it from Chris Evert, that's an honour for her to be saying that," Capriati said. "It does give me confidence to know that I could bring America's tennis up, that I can make it better and bring it back."

After hearing Capriati refer to her as a legend, the 33-year-old Navratilova called her young opponent a legend-in-the-making. Navratilova said Capriati is "more polished" at this stage than was Graf, who is ranked No. 1 in the world, or Andrea Jaeger or Tracy Austin, who were once seen as America's next great tennis stars.

"She's also physically closer to her potential than Andrea or Tracy or Steffi were at that age," Navratilova said. "She hits the ball harder on both sides, Steffi was hitting it hardest one way. But Jennifer hits it hard off both sides."

"She's pretty quick. I think Andrea was better at the net than Jennifer, but she's got all the shots — and the potential to master all of them."

Throughout the week, Capriati was besieged by youngsters seeking autographs while Navratilova and the other players were virtually ignored. But that doesn't seem to bother Navratilova, who won her first Grand Slam in 1978 — when Capriati was just 2 years old.

"She's a really nice kid," Navratilova said. "She's very honest and forthright. She says what's on her mind. That's refreshing."

Stevens gets Cup reprieve

GLASGOW, April 10. (UPI) Glasgow Rangers and England right back Gary Stevens received some good news from the doctor yesterday — the injury he suffered in a Scottish League game Sunday is only muscle damage, rather than a broken fibula, as was originally feared.

After the match, Rangers' doctor Donald Cruickshank feared that Stevens had suffered a serious injury, but extensive medical checks revealed no broken bones from the injury sustained in the top-of-the-table 0-0 draw with Aberdeen.

Stevens is only expected to be out of action for three weeks, which is good news for England supporters, as he is national team manager Bobby Robson's first choice for the right back position.

Italian soccer League hit by controversies

LONDON, April 10. (Reuters) A thrown coin and an oversight by a World Cup referee could settle the race between European Cup holders AC Milan and Diego Maradona's Napoli for the Italian League soccer title.

But in Spain, Real Madrid would have to lose all five remaining matches by improbably high margins to be denied their fifth consecutive League title on goal difference.

Both Napoli and Milan drew 0-0 on Sunday away to lesser teams but neither scoreline reflected the action on the pitch.

The coin, thrown by a fan, hit Napoli's Brazilian midfielder Alemao over an ear in the 78th minute of the game against Atalanta.

If Napoli, just one point behind Milan with three League matches left, successfully appeal against the result they stand to be granted a 2-0 win — giving them two points and hauling them into the lead.

Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino said Alemao had failed to recognise him shortly after he was taken to hospital, but doctors said the Brazilian World Cup star had soon recovered.

Under Italian League rules, the authorities can award a match 2-0 to a club forced to change their team or whose performance was seriously affected by hooliganism.

Napoli benefited from the ruling in the 1987-88 season when a coin hit defender Alessandro



Alemao: hit by a coin

Renica at Pisa at halftime.

Renica was unable to play for the second half. Pisa won 1-0 but Napoli were given the match 2-0 after an appeal.

In Bologna, a tired Milan had a narrow escape against their eighth-placed opponents when referee Tullio Lancini failed to spot an own goal by their goalkeeper Andrea Pazzagli who only managed to palm the ball clear after it had crossed the line.

Lancini said on watching a television replay: "I was untrained, I really couldn't see because of (Milan defender Franco) Baresi. It's really unfortunate."

Maradona, who retrieved the coin that hit his teammate, commented on the incidents: "Now soccer is played more often off the pitch than on. The game's the only loser."

Real Madrid's two-points



Thon: back in action

against Celta Vigo, beaten 3-0 at the Bernabeu stadium made the title a formality.

"Now, with a favourable goal average over Atletico Madrid, we can become champions without winning another point," said midfielder Manuel Sanchis who scored the first goal.

At the top of the Dutch League, Ajax Amsterdam, 1-0 winners at FC Groningen, overtook PSV Eindhoven, cham-

pions for the past four years but struggling without injured Brazilian Romario.

PSV drew 0-0 against Vitesse and announced they would not renew the expiring contract of coach Guus Hiddink, who took the team to their first European cup title in 1988 but who has clashed this season with Dutch striker Gerald Vanenburg.

Hiddink was also fined 10,000 guilders (\$5,000) for angry comments he made about Vanenburg, who has a life-long contract at PSV, in a magazine interview last week.

Hiddink's departure sets the scene for major changes at PSV as Dutch international striker Wim Kieft, who clashed with Vanenburg earlier this season, has said he wants to leave while Belgian captain Eric Gerets is expected to retire.

Olaf Thon, Bayern Munich's 23-year-old West German midfielder, eased his way back from almost half a year of injury to a real chance of a World Cup place with a convincing performance in the champions' 2-2 draw at Bayer Uerdingen.

An 87th minute equaliser by defender Wolfgang Funkel prevented Bayern claiming the win their form merited. But Thon's form was more significant than the lost point.

Bayern kept their three-point lead at the top.

French leaders Bordeaux lost to Auxerre in their first home defeat this season to allow champions Marseille to close the gap after drawing 2-2 at Cannes.

Jean-Pierre Papin scoring his 25th goal of the season for the European Cup semifinals.

Marseille, who host Bordeaux next week, are now one point behind, with one game in hand and have every chance to claim back the top spot for the first time since last October.

'Kasparov, Karpov in class of their own'

MANILA, Philippines, April 10. (AP) The president of the International Chess Federation (Fide) said yesterday that both reigning champion Garry Kasparov and arch-rival Anatoly Karpov are capable of winning the world championship match which begins in New York on Oct. 7.

"Anything can happen," Florencio Campomanes said of the scheduled 24-game series.

Campomanes said the two Soviet players have shown great form in recent matches.

The Fide chief said Karpov was particularly sharp when he defeated Jan Timman of the Netherlands in an elimination match in Kuala Lumpur last month.

Karpov scored 6 1/2 points against 2 1/2 points for Timman in the world's third-ranked player after Kasparov and Karpov.

"The two seem to be in a class of their own," Campomanes told a sports forum.

The Kasparov-Karpov match renews one of the hottest rivalries in chess history. It will be the fifth title clash between Kasparov and Karpov in less than six years, Campomanes said.

Thankappen wins opener

P. THANKAPPEN won the inaugural match of the India Festival Badminton Tournament, which started on Monday.

Thankappen had to fight for every point as he overpowered the young and upcoming A.K. Arun 19-9 15-8. The match was much closer than the score reflects.

Saju Thomas had an easier time in his 15-1 15-6 victory over B.S. Bajan while Bobby Chennan and A. Chennan were awarded walkovers in their gents singles matches.

In one of the most exciting matches of the day, P.I. Allen Cherry and George Chacko fought back after losing the first set to beat Bobby Tharian and Sebastian Varghese 5-15 15-9 15-5 in the men's doubles.

In the other doubles matches, Muralidharan and J.S. Anand had an easy 15-1 15-8 victory over P. Thankappen and John Koshy while Robert Henry and Mohan George beat Rajan Daniel and Roy Thomas 15-1 15-9.

In the veterans singles M. Mathews and K.G. Kutty had a close match before the latter won 15-9 15-9.

Harshavardhan defeated Abhishek 15-1 15-0 in the junior boys singles while Anju Abraham got a walkover in the girls singles.

Fixtures for today: 7.30 pm — Veteran singles: G.S. Playa vs K.P.G. Kutty. Junior girls: Sweta vs Harpreet Kaur.

Gents singles: Jacob Thomas vs Vinod Varghese. 8.30 pm — Veteran singles: R. Daniel vs Dr Srivastava. Gents singles: Regi Joseph vs A. Chennan.

Gents doubles: Bhattacharya & Sunil Parekh vs P. J. Chacko & Robert Sequeira. 9.30 pm — Mixed doubles: Remy Joseph & Shoba Nair vs Suja Varghese & Saji Varghese.

Gents singles: Mohan Das vs Sanjay Sharma or Alex Mathew. Veterans doubles: Rajan Daniel & C.J. Philips vs M. Mathews & Sam Alphonso.

RESULTS of the Barclay Cigarette Bridge Tournament (5th week) held at the Regency on Sunday: NS.

1. Adly Tieb & Mamdouh Sabri. 2. Shankar Reddy & Dhruva Mukerjee. 3. Rima & Faoud Farah. EW.

1. Stanley Draxler & Carsten Buus. 2. Lollo Murthwaite & Nabil Akel. 3. Sunhendran & Melin Gajjar.

Results of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game held on Saturday: 1. Ibrahim & Kahah. 2. Patrick & Gajjar. 3. Sultan & Shanti. EW.

1. George & Salaman. 2. Mervin & Carsten. 3. Jawahira & Nazaren.

Results of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game played on Monday: 1. Rima Ayyad & Ghofran Mikail. 2. Nabil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite. 3. Jamila Akel & Rabab Abboushi.

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played last Wednesday: 1. Nabil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite. 2. Jamila Akel & Nuha Khalaf. 3. Bianca Moussali & Fathima Abu Joban.